

# CHAMBER CHAT

APRIL 2026

## Let's Celebrate!

Spring is such a wonderful time of renewal. It is a perfect time to celebrate the season, our organization, and you.

### **Skagit Valley Chamber Annual Awards Dinner**

*Presented by Draper Valley Farms*

*Thursday, April 30, at 5:30 p.m.*

*Swinomish Casino & Lodge*

*12885 Casino Drive, Anacortes*

Please join us for an evening of recognition for outstanding achievement and service by our members. We will also highlight the success of the Chamber's programs in the past year and our vision for the future. The following awards will be given:

*Business of the Year*

*Business Person of the Year*

*Making a Difference Award*

*Rising Star*

*Legacy Award*

*Resilience Award*

*Ambassador of the Year*

The evening will begin with time to meet or reconnect with fellow members. Special thanks to Draper Valley Farms for sponsoring the event. See inside for the link to register.

**Chamber Luncheon at the Kiwanis Salmon BBQ:** We also have our Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 a.m. at the Lodge at Hillcrest Park. There's a reason why the Kiwanis Salmon BBQ continues to be one of the must-do events associated with the Tulip Festival. Join us for fun, friends, and a fabulous feast! See inside for the link to register.

**2026 Legislative Session:** The short session was busy and contentious as seems to be the trend lately. Please look inside this issue for a summary of relevant legislation. Our efforts were based on legislative priorities developed by the Skagit Chamber Alliance joint government affairs committee.

Thank you for supporting the work and programs of the Chamber!  
Andy Mayer, President & CEO



SKAGIT VALLEY  
**CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE

## LEGACY MEMBERS

### GOLD



### SILVER



Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

[skagitvalleychamber.com](http://skagitvalleychamber.com)

## Calendar of Events

### Networking for Success: The Real Talk on Talkin' Biz

Friday, April 17

9 a.m.

Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

### LBL Spring Social

Thursday April 23rd

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hacienda Tequila Mexican Restaurant

617 Metcalf St

Sedro-Woolley

[Register here](#)



### Business E.D.G.E. - Hiring Employees in Today's Environment

Tuesday, April 21

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Via Zoom

[Register here](#)

### Ribbon Cutting for Way Maker Personal Care Transportation

Friday, April 24

3 p.m.

Skagit Riverwalk Park

520 Main St

Mount Vernon

### Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, April 22

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Annual Awards Dinner

Thursday, April 30th

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Swinomish Casino & Lodge

12885 Casino Dr

Anacortes

[Buy your tickets / table here](#)



## Thank You for Growing with Us

At the Skagit Valley Chamber, our members are our greatest advocates. We recently celebrated this spirit of community by awarding our latest Staycation Experience prizes to those whose referrals have directly helped our Chamber grow.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Silvia Alvarez (Triumph Teen Life Center)
- Karla Nelson (US Bank)
- Marla Chapa (Marla & Company - Keller Williams Western Realty)
- Jaime Huss

We also want to extend our sincere gratitude to our Ambassador Chair, Ian Houben (Skagit Habitat for Humanity), and our generous prize sponsors: [Hampton Burlington](#), [Lincoln Theatre](#), and [La Catrina Tacos & Tequila](#).

We encourage you to continue sharing the value of the Chamber with your professional network. For every new member who joins through your referral, you will be rewarded with an entry into our next Staycation Experience drawing!

For membership information or to submit a referral, reach out to Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | [Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com) | (360) 395-2944.

# 2026 Legislative Session - Key Outcomes by Legislative Priority

The Skagit Valley Chamber's Government Affairs Committee works with all the Chambers through the Skagit Chamber Alliance to develop legislative priorities. In this year's frenetic short session there wasn't much that supported our priorities other than on housing:

## 1. Expanding Housing Options to Support Families and Workforce Development

- E2SSB 6026 – Allows residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones; expands housing supply in areas already served by infrastructure and near employment centers.
- SHB 2269 – Expands infrastructure options for middle housing in rural areas; makes it more feasible to build duplexes and similar housing types in communities facing workforce shortages.
- HB 2304 – Condominium development reform; reduces legal risk for developers and encourages construction of entry-level ownership housing.

## 2. Addressing the Rising Cost of Doing Business

- HB 2420 – Small works roster expansion; raises threshold for streamlined public works contracting, reducing administrative burden and expanding opportunities for local contractors.
- SB 5061 (Did Not Advance) – Would have changed prevailing wage timing; its failure preserves cost certainty by keeping wage requirements set at the time of bid.

## 3. Workforce Development

- SB 5963 – Expands Washington College Grant access; strengthens the long-term workforce pipeline by improving access to education and training.
- HB 1980 – Employer transportation pilot programs; supports workforce mobility by improving access to jobs in high-density areas.

## 4. Infrastructure: Long-Term Maintenance Planning

- SSB 5690 – Utility relocation coordination; reduces delays and cost overruns by improving coordination between transportation projects and utility providers.

## 5. Funding Education – nothing significantly positive

## 6. Healthcare

- SSB 5185 – Physician workforce expansion; helps address provider shortages, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

# Skagit Valley Chamber 2026 Annual Awards Dinner

**Presented by Draper Valley Farms**

Thursday, April 30th, the Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Awards Dinner at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge. This is our signature event dedicated to honoring the businesses and individuals who drive our economy and uplift our community.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

While the evening is a celebration, it is also a powerful platform for your business. We have several sponsorship tiers still open that offer high-level visibility to Skagit Valley's most influential leaders and decision-makers. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the celebration and showcase your business.

**Sponsorship Deadline: Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>**

## **BUY YOUR TICKETS**

Behind every great business is a vision and a story of determination. Secure your seat to support your business colleagues and celebrate the collective achievements of the Skagit business community.

·Individual Tickets \$80.00

·Table sponsorship (8 people) \$850.00

**Ticket sale deadline: Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

[Purchase individual tickets / table here](#)

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Make it a full evening! We have secured a special room block at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge specifically for our guests.

·Standard King: \$149.00

·Queen Standard: \$169.00

Rates are subject to all applicable taxes

**Group Code: MVANNUALAWARDS**

**Room block deadline: Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Contact the Swinomish Casino & Lodge directly to make your reservation

For more information about the Annual Awards Dinner and/or to secure your sponsorship, contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | [Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com) | Direct: (360) 395-2944 – Cell (360) 305-0895

## Welcome New Members

### **Dream Hot Tubs and Spas**

Joshua Ruland

(509) 307-2230

525 E College Way Ste B1

Mount Vernon

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

New and refurbished hot tub store

Massage and Wellness therapy

Ease of maintenance

Made in the USA

### **Earth 2 Spirit**

Jennifer Mehta-Darden

(360) 770-9355

Mount Vernon

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

We offer educational talks, workshops, and consultations on composting, soil biology, and regenerative gardening.

### **JKR Windows**

Steven Massingale

(425) 314-3452

Mount Vernon

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

JKR's customizable, energy efficient windows will not only enhance your home's comfort and style, they'll also offer substantial savings on energy bills while boosting your property value.

### **McPherson Pest Control**

Macie Stockman

(360) 572-4118

9923 270th St NW Ste 102

Stanwood

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

As a veteran and family owned business, we provide expert residential and commercial pest control for Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom, and Island Counties with over 20 years of experience.

### **Mela Moon**

Challice Martin

(425) 530-6686

Concrete

[www.melamoon.art](http://www.melamoon.art)

Mela Moon is a professional fairy face painter, bringing parties to life! Also available are workshops for parties (fairy gardens, flower crowns, etc.)



### **Mister Party LLC**

Pablo Gonzalez

(360) 982-6728

303 Pine St

Mount Vernon

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

Nestled in the heart of downtown Mount Vernon, we offer the "best of both worlds" menu that bridges the gap between traditional Mexican flavors and American comfort classics.

### **Northbound Ledger LLC**

Tom Rose

(360) 421-0898

Sedro-Woolley

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

Hourly and subscription based bookkeeping services with a focus on small business.

### **Town and Country Motorcoach and RV Resort**

Chris Finstein

(360) 503-9095

324 W College Way

Mount Vernon

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

A premier RV experience, located in the picturesque Skagit Valley. A one of a kind experience for RV enthusiasts.



### **Way Maker Personal Care Transportation**

Beverly Wilkening

(425) 299-1965

Mount Vernon

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

Way Maker Personal Care Transportation provides non emergency medical transportation with wheelchair accessible and ambulatory services.



# Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Professional Chili**  
Skagit Valley Food Co-op



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Professional Chowder**  
Big Lake Bar & Grill



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Amateur Chili**  
KAPS & KBRC Radio



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Professional Chili**  
Whispering Willows of Mount  
Vernon



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Professional Chowder**  
The Skagit Table



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Amateur Chili**  
Skagit Plumbing



**Craft Stove Best of Show**  
Floyd Lloyd's BBQ



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Amateur Chowder and  
Best Decorated**  
The Dragon's Ladle

Thank you sponsors!

PRESENTED BY:

# Craft Stove



## Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

Dust off your lawn chairs, put on your dancing shoes and come to Historic Downtown Mount Vernon for some memorable summer evenings! The Riverwalk Summer Concert Series is free thanks to community sponsors. From foot-tapping blues, to old-time rock and roll music, the Riverwalk Concerts are a great way to wind down your week or jump-start a fun-filled weekend. For information on sponsoring the series contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or [Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com). See the sponsorship details on pages 12/13 and reserve your spot today.



7/9/2026 Pacific Twang  
7/16/2026 EDEN  
7/23/2026 The ABBAGraphs  
7/30/2026 Bluesfish  
8/6/2026 Friends for the Ghost  
8/13/2026 Baby Cakes  
8/20/2026 The Chris Eger Band  
8/27/2026 The Atlantics

## Thank you Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Baird Private Wealth Management  
Pape Machinery AG and Turf

### 30+ Years

Central Moving & Storage  
Pacific Party Canopies, Inc.

### 25+ Years

Human Resources of Mount Vernon, LLC  
The La Conner Inn

### 20+ Years

Brown McMillen Real Estate  
Burlington Plaza  
Express Employment Professionals  
Skagit Friendship House

### 15+ Years

Skagit Symphony

### 10+ Years

Candlewood Suites an IHG Hotel  
Judd & Black Appliance  
Perla's Insurance Services  
Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

### 5+ Years

Associated General Contractors of Washington - AGC  
Carl's Towing Mount Vernon  
Sound Cedar Lumber

### Less than 5 Years

Celtic Arts Foundation  
Custom Cleaning Services Washington LLC  
Ethan Home Repair & Remodeling LLC  
IT Work for You  
LegalShield  
Rachelle Marie Coaching & Consulting  
wafla  
Work Opportunities

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### Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Aquarius Collective, Birch Equipment Co., Coastal Farm & Ranch, CPI Plumbing & Heating, Foothills Toyota, Global Credit Union, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Kern Funeral Home, Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC, Loving Farms, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, WECU, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs, Wingate by Wyndham

## Board of Directors

### Chair - Lance Calloway

Associated General Contractors of Washington

### Vice Chair - Elizabeth Jennings

Community Action of Skagit County

### Past Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

### Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

### Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

### Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

### Crystal King

Chinook Enterprises

### Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

### Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

### Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

### Leah Scates

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

### Steve Sexton

City of Mount Vernon

### Danny Vera

Skagit Regional Health

## 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

### Children of the Valley Annual Art Auction & Dinner





**CHILDREN OF THE VALLEY  
ANNUAL ART  
AUCTION**

TITLE SPONSOR  
**GLOBAL CREDIT UNION**

## Annual Art Auction

**Friday, April 24**

DOORS & SILENT AUCTION OPEN AT 5PM  
DINNER AT 6:30PM

**St. Joseph Center**  
215 N 15th St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



SCAN FOR TICKETS

AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT!  
ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL

Enjoy a vibrant evening in support of COV with live mariachi music and a Mexican street-style dinner by COA Mexican Eatery!

SINGLE TICKET - \$100  
8-SEAT TABLE - \$750  
10-SEAT TABLE - \$925

VISIT [COVMV.ORG/ART-AUCTION](http://COVMV.ORG/ART-AUCTION) FOR DETAILS.

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE!



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

@covskagit

covmv.org

@covskagit

### Annual Spring Volunteer Day at Camp Korey!

Spring Volunteer Day on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>! This annual volunteer day is vital to helping prep us for a summer of programming and serving kids with complex and life altering medical conditions and their families! We would love to have you join us and welcome you to Camp Korey for the day!

- When: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026
  - Gate will open at 8:30 am
- Where: Camp Korey – 24880 Brotherhood Rd. Mount Vernon, WA 98274



**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  
[skagitvalleychamber.com/member-announcements](http://skagitvalleychamber.com/member-announcements)

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

# March in Pictures

# Ambassadors



**EWP Presentation at Children of the Valley After School Program**



**Speaking of Women "Insights from the Top"**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at Trinky Busiu**



**New Members at Town & Country Membership Luncheon**



**Ribbon Cutting at Alfa and Omega Tax Service**



**Ribbon Cutting at Mister Party LLC**

- 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

## BRONZE LEGACY





# Annual Awards Dinner

*Presented by Draper Valley Farms*

Swinomish Casino & Lodge

Thursday April 30

5:30 to 8:30 PM

**BUY YOUR TICKETS BY APRIL 21**

General Admission \$80.00

Table Sponsor \$850.00

Hotel Discounts available when  
reserving your room by **APRIL 19**

CODE: MVANNUALAWARDS



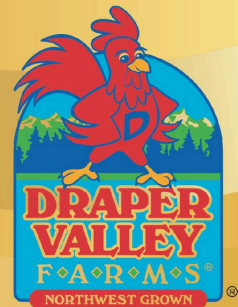
## Sponsorship and Event Information

Silvia Reed

Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

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

www.SkagitValleyChamber.com





# Annual Awards Dinner

## 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

SPONSORSHIP	BENEFITS	INVESTMENT
<p><b>Presenting Sponsor</b> 01 Sponsor Deadline 03/20/26</p> <p><b>NO LONGER AVAILABLE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name integrated into the event title</li> <li>Exclusive opportunity to address the audience the evening of the event</li> <li>One complimentary table (8 seats) in front and center VIP location</li> <li>Your logo on printed and digital event marketing material</li> <li>Your logo on all awards and big screen</li> <li>Your name and logo in Skagit Valley Herald ad (01 issue)</li> </ul>	<p>\$3,000</p>
<p><b>Award Sponsor</b> Up to 07 sponsors</p> <p><b>EXTENDED TO 04/17/26</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name mentioned during the event</li> <li>Opportunity to introduce your company during award presentation</li> <li>Four complimentary admission tickets</li> <li>Your logo on the big screen</li> <li>Your logo in Skagit Valley Herald ad (01 issue)</li> </ul>	<p>\$1250</p>
<p><b>Red Carpet Sponsor</b> Up to 2 sponsors</p> <p><b>EXTENDED TO 04/17/26</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in event program</li> <li>Logo displayed in red carpet area</li> <li>Company name mentioned during the event</li> <li>Two complimentary admission tickets</li> </ul>	<p>\$1000</p>
<p><b>Table Sponsor</b> Subject to availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name and/or logo prominently displayed at the table and event program</li> <li>One complimentary table (8 seats)</li> </ul>	<p>\$850</p>

Sponsorship and Event Information

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

**Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce Presents  
RIVERWALK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
July 9 through August 27, 2026  
Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



The Mount Vernon Riverwalk Concert Series consists of eight weekly concerts on the Mount Vernon Riverwalk Plaza. The concerts feature an eclectic lineup of outstanding bands from the area.

The concerts offer a free, family-friendly, fun atmosphere to encourage visitors and entertain residents. The venue is perfectly situated by the river and adjacent to downtown retail and restaurants. Based on last year's attendance, we expect to welcome 6,000+ people into the downtown area during the entire series.

**2026 Lineup** - 7/9 - Pacific Twang, 7/16 - EDEN, 7/23 The ABBAgraphs, 7/30 - Bluesfish, 8/6 - Friends for the Ghost, 8/13 - Baby Cakes, 8/20 - The Chris Eger Band, 8/27 - The Atlantics

The series will be heavily promoted through diverse media, including social media, radio, print, press releases, chamber website, member communications, and more. As a sponsor, you can expect to benefit from unprecedented brand exposure and stand above the competition through association with a much-loved, community-oriented event series.

**Please join and support us in offering another wonderful community experience.**

**For more information on sponsorships, please contact Jeremy Kindlund at the Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce, 360-428-8547 or [Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com).**

## 2026 Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Sponsorship Opportunities

**Presenting Sponsor:** **Not Available**

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at every concert

Magnified and well-positioned company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on SkagitValleyChamber.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

- Mention in all press releases

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at all series concerts

**Royal Sponsor:** **\$2,500 - limited**

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at three concerts

Company logo prominently displayed on promotional poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ad

- Branded advertising on SkagitValleyChamber.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at three concerts

**Major Sponsor:** **\$1,250**

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at one concert

Company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on SkagitValleyChamber.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at one concert

**Supporting Sponsor:** **\$550**

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- SV Chamber website

- Chamber Facebook