

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHAT

December 2025

Thank you and holiday wishes!

As we close out another impactful year, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to you—our members—for your unwavering support and commitment to the Chamber. Your engagement, ideas, and partnership are the driving force behind everything we accomplish. Each business, nonprofit, and community leader who chooses to be part of this organization strengthens not only the Chamber, but the vitality of our area.

This year, we sharpened our focus on the issues and entities that matter most to you and to the long-term health of our community. Our luncheon series reflected that priority, offering substantive conversations on our regional economy, the state of healthcare and thoughts on its future, the State of the City, tourism development, and the transformational North Star Project. These programs brought forward the voices and insights that help local businesses navigate challenges, plan for growth, and stay informed about the forces shaping our region.

At the same time, we recognized the importance of creating dedicated space for networking. In response, we launched a new morning format for our popular Biz Buzz programs. This separation of formats allowed us to honor two core needs: high-value education and meaningful connections. The result was greater engagement across the board. Members were able to choose the opportunities that best matched their interests. Our many other programs also had a strong year, offering connection and promotion to segments of our membership.

Thank you for your trust, your enthusiasm, and your belief in what we can accomplish together. From all of us at the Chamber, thank you for being part of our community. Warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season and a bright year ahead!

Andy Mayer
President & CEO



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
mountvernonchamber.com

Calendar of Events

Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at The Bony Pony

Thursday, December 11
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
2423 Old Highway 99 S Rd
Mount Vernon

Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, December 10
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mount Vernon Library Commons
208 W Kincaid St
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)



Mount Vernon HolidayFest

Sunday, December 14
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Pine Square in downtown Mount Vernon
[Click here for more information](#)

Latino Business Leaders Annual Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 17
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
[Register here](#)



Secure Marketing Opportunities for 2026

Do you have plans to increase your marketing presence or support 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
- BrewFest on the Skagit
- Your Chamber This Week
- Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts
- Chamber Website Banner Ads
- Mount Vernon HolidayFest
- Speaking of Women

These events and publications are a great way to increase exposure to fellow Chamber members and the community at large, and the Chamber makes it easy to participate. See the marketing opportunities on Page 16 for details on each sponsorship, as well as other opportunities available with the Chamber.

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

For Speaking of Women, Latino Business Leaders and One-day training sponsorship opportunities please contact Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director, at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com or (360) 395-2944.

Mount Vernon HolidayFest



Get ready for a magical afternoon at Mount Vernon HolidayFest! Join us on Sunday, December 14 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Pine Square for a heartwarming celebration of the season, brought to you by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and Mount Vernon Parks Department.

Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, sip on free hot cocoa courtesy of The Lunchbox Diner, or a cup of coffee from Skagit Valley Food Co-op, explore the festive Holiday Market, and enjoy kids' activities galore. Anna and Elsa from Frozen will be at the market from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., then will accompany you to a free sing-along screening of Frozen courtesy of the Lincoln Theatre.

Bundle up, bring the whole family, and let the holiday spirit shine. It's the most wonderful time of the year and it's happening right here in downtown Mount Vernon!

Thank you sponsors!



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, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, 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

Welcome New Members

Rosebud Aesthetics

Morgan Stewart
(360) 610-7412
404 S 1st St #206
Mount Vernon



www.rosebudaestheticsbymorgan.com

At Rosebud Aesthetics, we specialize in providing results driven treatments with little to no downtime, so you can immediately go back to your daily routine with radiant, glowing skin.

Stewart Woods - REMAX Northwest

Stewart Woods
(425) 343-5288
Stanwood

stewartwoods.remax.com

Realtor with 42 years' experience across Snohomish, King, Skagit & Whatcom Counties. Also a builder/developer, skilled in all property types. Excited to serve and support the Mount Vernon Chamber.

Pyung Chang Korean BBQ

Ae Ram Kim
(360) 450-3333
521 S 2nd St
Mount Vernon



www.pyungchangbbq.com

We are Skagit's first Authentic Korean BBQ restaurant. with exotic dishes that range from japahae to bulgogi. Keep Pyung Chang Korean BBQ in mind for your next family gathering, business dinner or just to enjoy a unique dining experience.

Thank you Renewing Members

35+ Years

Piazza Realty Property Management, Inc.

25+ Years

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery
Hansen's Furniture

15+ Years

United Way of Skagit County

5+ Years

Alfa and Omega Tax Services
Banner Bank
Indulge Bakery
Mr T's Family Cafe
Skagit Adult Day Program

Less than 5 Years

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC
Julia Phillip Realty
Les Schwab Tire Centers
Middle Way Acupuncture Institute
Sabores Catering
Walton Law A.P.C.
Weaver Insurance Agency, Inc - Farmers Insurance

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR
AMBASSADOR TEAM?





For information:
Silvia Reed
(360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com



New One-Day Business Training sessions coming up in 2026

Scaling your Business from the Ground Up

We are excited to announce our new One-Day Training Programs coming up in 2026. This new initiative is focused on providing industry-specific business training in two critical sectors: Contracting and Food Industry. Participants will receive a solid foundation on licensing and compliance, permitting and regulations and scaling and bidding ensuring that our entrepreneurs have the necessary resources to build and scale their business.

Food Industry Training Day

Friday January 23rd

Mount Vernon Library Commons

1:00 to 4:30 PM

This event includes a tour of the brand-new commercial kitchen at the Mount Vernon Library Commons, Businesses that are fully licensed will be able to rent the space on event date.

Contractor's Training Day

Friday January 30

Skagit Valley College – Multi purpose Room

1:00 to 4:30 PM

Registration for both training days starts on Monday, December 8th.

For full event details, please go to pages 12 through 15 on this newsletter.

For more information about our one-day business training please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 | Silvia@MountVernonchamber.com.

2025 Shop Local Campaign

Shop at these participating businesses through January 31 for your chance to win. For every \$5 spent you receive a punch on your card and once you have spent \$50 for your chance at weekly drawings. All Valley Detailing LLC • Arrows Aim Greenhouse • Babe Rainbow Antiques • bLoom Floral Design • Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery • Celtic Arts Foundation • The Chique Boutique Salon / Sharlie's Curvy Clothes • Craft Stove • Dilly Dally Antiques & Collectibles • Draft Pics Pub & Eatery • Draper Valley Farms • Easton's Books • Forté Chocolate • Gateway Automotive and Transmission • Good Vibes Body Art • KAPS Radio 660 AM & 102.1 FM • KBRC 1430AM & 102.9FM • KLT:works Studio + Shop • LIDO Collective • Lincoln Theatre • Little Mountain Books & Botanica • PAVÉ Jewelry & Design • Riverside Health Club • Savi Powered By Harborstone • Skagit Habitat for Humanity • Skagit Running Company • Skagit Transit • Skagit Valley Food Co-op Mercantile • Skagit Valley Larder • Supercuts Mount Vernon • Thai House Restaurant • Tori Tornado • Tri Dee Arts • Union Block Bistro • Wild Fibers • Wild Heart Radiance • Work Outfitters

Business E.D.G.E.

Entrepreneurial Development & Growth Essentials

Your Third Tuesday Business Advantage

We are partnering with the Washington SBDC to bring you Business E.D.G.E. - a year-long professional development series designed to help entrepreneurs and business leaders strengthen their skills and build long-term success. Each virtual session, held on the third Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m., offers practical insights you can apply immediately to your business to give you the competitive edge. See the flyer on page 11 for the full 2026 lineup. For more information on Business E.D.G.E. contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com or 360 428-8547.

Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation Workforce Development Efforts

Early this season students from Skagit Valley College (SVC) received invaluable, practical insight into the local job market and professional career paths.

The first event was an informative session featuring Matthew Long, Community Liaison for Eden Home Health. He delivered a powerful presentation that included recommended resources for students interested in diving deeper into the industry, an overview of changing healthcare policies, and practical advice for those looking to pursue a similar career path.



Students also had the opportunity to visit Chinook Enterprises. During their visit, they were able to interview Executive Director/CEO Nikki Wegner, tour the facilities and learn about production processes firsthand with Production Manager Tom Williams, meet with Employment Specialist Audrey Dawson, and gain deeper insight into the organization's community impact and outreach efforts with Partnership Specialist Chrystal King.

This comprehensive set of activities provided the SVC students with a direct look at the daily operations, leadership perspectives, and significant community contributions of two key local organizations.

The Chamber and Chamber Foundation invest in workforce development to meet member businesses' crucial need for skilled talent, directly driving local economic growth. This work bridges the skills gap by aligning education with employer demand, ensuring a resilient and thriving community.

Experience Work Project was founded as a Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation program in 2006 and is a successful partnership with Skagit Valley College and the Northwest Workforce Council. Those interested in learning more about our workforce development efforts, please contact Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director, at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com or call her at (360) 395-2944 or (360) 305-0895.

Speaking of Women returns in January



Speaking of Women is returning this January, promising to be bigger and better than ever! The program has been specifically designed for businesswomen to connect with one another, empower each other, and mentor upcoming business leaders.

With an average attendance of 20 to 25 professional women at the monthly coffee chats and VIP hours, and around 40 attendees at the empowerment panels, the series represents an excellent opportunity to support, connect, inform, and inspire. The 2026 Speaking of Women Series will officially kick off on Wednesday, January 14th. [Series registration starts on December 15th.](#)

We are currently looking for sponsors who believe in the mission of the program and the incredible value it delivers to the community. Please refer to pages 17-18 on this newsletter for more information.

If you are interested in partnership or sponsorship opportunities or have questions about Speaking of Women, please contact Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 or (360) 305-0895 | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com.

Growing YOUR Chamber

As our valued members, you are the most compelling advocates for what we do. Your business and the dedicated people behind it are the vital energy fueling our local economy. When you share your positive journey with the Chamber or personally invite a professional connection to attend one of our upcoming events, you're doing much more than just endorsing us; you are highlighting your own achievements and inspiring others to join a supportive network designed to help them flourish.

We're inviting YOU to be our biggest champion by sharing a testimonial and referring a fellow business owner to the Mount Vernon Chamber. By doing this, you'll have the opportunity to be entered into our Staycation Prize Drawing, and we'll extend additional membership benefits to your referral who joins the Chamber by January 30th (deadline extended). For complete details, please check the "Join the Chamber Today" informational sheet on page 20 in this newsletter or reach out directly to Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director, at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com or call her at (360) 395-2944 or (360) 305-0895.

Get to Know: Michelle Simmons of SERVPRO of Skagit & Island County

Michelle Simmons leads business development for SERVPRO of Skagit & Island County - Leavens Enterprises, serving Skagit County and the surrounding areas. Michelle has spent her career connecting with local businesses, supporting families, and helping teams succeed.

“I love what I do and the people I do it for,” Michelle says. When a loss occurs—water, fire, mold, or storm damage—she is there to help. The famous quote, “Look for the helpers,” which is attributed to Mr. Rogers, resonates with her, and she takes pride in being part of the team that steps in when it matters most.



Michelle Simmons
SERVPRO

In her role, Michelle meets people across various industries, learning what makes each business unique. She enjoys discovering new businesses and finding ways SERVPRO can support them through education and prevention. “Tell me about what you do and why,” she says, always ready to connect and collaborate. Michelle has roots in the raspberry industry, having been born and raised in Lynden. She and her husband, Martin, have three beautiful children and are preparing to be empty nesters. If you see her, give her a hug—she’s going to need it!

Community service, team development, and helping businesses thrive are central to her work. Outside the office, she serves on her local school board, spends time with family and friends, and embraces travel and adventure. Her favorite days are when the sun is shining and “the mountain is out”—Mt. Baker, that is. There’s no better day than that in the PNW!

SERVPRO - Leavens Enterprises is a proud member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, and Michelle is dedicated to supporting the Skagit County community!

Member Testimonial

I’ve been a Chamber member for almost three years, and in that short time I’ve made some of the most meaningful connections of my professional career. Not only has the Chamber been incredibly welcoming, but the support and commitment they show to their members goes beyond business.

The Chamber truly cares about its members, and for anyone trying to find a place in the community, there is no better organization to join.



Matthew Long
Eden Home Health

Board of Directors

Chair - Lance Calloway

Association of General Contractors

Vice Chair - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Past Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Treasurer - Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Member at Large - Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Elizabeth Jennings

Community Action of Skagit County

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

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

Christianson's Nursery Festive Holiday Market



Mount Vernon Library Commons Earns High Honor at PhiusCon 2025



HKP Architects is thrilled to announce that the Mount Vernon Library Commons (MVLCC) located in historic downtown Mount Vernon, WA has received the Award for Public Space Excellence at this year's PhiusCon conference, recognizing outstanding achievement in high-performance and sustainable building design. PhiusCon, an annual gathering of passive building professionals, honored the MVLCC project for its exemplary contribution to public space, community engagement, and environmental performance.



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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

November in Pictures



Ribbon Cutting at Cask & Cleaver



Ribbon Cutting at
Rosebud Aesthetics



Speaking of Women Coffee Chat at
Union Block Bistro



Multi-Chamber After Hours at
Markwood Apartments



Ambassador Friendgiving at
Golden Hour Cafe



Latino Business Leaders at
Skagit Valley College

Ambassadors

Chair - 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

Ian Houben

Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Jaime Huss

Washington Federal

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

