

CHAMBER CHAT

FEBRUARY 2026

New name, same mission: long term success for our businesses and Mount Vernon

We changed our name to better reflect who we already are and how we serve our members. This change recognizes our long history of regional programs, leadership, and involvement; acknowledges that many of the issues affecting business success are regional in nature; reaffirms Mount Vernon as our primary focus and home; and clarifies that our advocacy will continue through the Skagit Chamber Alliance, in partnership with the other Chambers in the county.

A Regional Role We've Long Played

For decades, we have acted as a regional chamber in practice, through workforce initiatives, leadership development, education partnerships, and programs that serve businesses and entrepreneurs across the Valley. The new name simply aligns our identity with the work our members already see and value.

Business Issues Don't Stop at City Limits

Issues such as housing availability, workforce mobility, transportation, energy reliability, and long-term economic resilience, all shape the success of local businesses—and all extend beyond any single city. Engaging at a regional level allows us to help influence outcomes that directly affect our members' bottom lines.

Mount Vernon Remains Our Focus

Mount Vernon is our home. We are dedicated to ensuring that it continues to be a premier place to live, work, and visit.

Stronger Advocacy Through Collaboration

Our advocacy will continue through the Skagit Chamber Alliance, which we co-founded with the other Chambers. Working together strengthens all of us and ensures that the voice of business is heard, clearly and effectively.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments about the name change and what it means to you.

Andy Mayer, CEO



LEGACY MEMBERS

GOLD



SILVER



Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

skagitvalleychamber.com

Calendar of Events

Speaking of Women Coffee Chat

Wednesday, February 11

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Skagit Table

225 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders – Funding your Business: From Startup to Scale

Presentation in Spanish



Wednesday February 18

6:00 to 8:00 PM

Skagit Valley College – Lewis Hall 311

[Register here](#)

Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Lincoln Theatre

Thursday, February 12

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

712 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

Ribbon Cutting at Hacienda Tequila Mexican Restaurant

Friday, February 20

4 p.m.

617 Metcalf St

Sedro-Woolley

Business E.D.G.E. - Build a Business Plan That Works

Tuesday, February 17 at 2 p.m.

Via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Chamber Membership Luncheon - Economic development organizations and Chambers: neighboring lanes on the same highway

Wednesday, February 25

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

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Members Reveal Positive Return on Investment



Lance Calloway,
Northern District Manager,
Associated General Contractors of
Washington

“The Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce is a vital advocate for the entire Skagit Valley, giving businesses a strong and united voice. By educating elected officials on the real needs of the business community and the impacts of legislation, the Chamber helps shape smart decisions that support a vibrant, resilient economy for all of Skagit County. When the Chamber builds these connections, it strengthens the future of every business and every community in the region.”

Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off

⇒ SKAGIT ⇐
**CHILI &
CHOWDER**
⇒ COOK-OFF ⇐

Craft 
Stove

Announcing the 8th annual Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off presented by Craft Stove!

Amateurs and professionals will compete on Saturday, April 4 at Farmstrong Brewing Company to be crowned Skagit's favorite for a top prize of \$250 in each category. Second place winner of each category will receive their entry fee (\$35) back.

There is a \$35 fee to participate. Prizes will be awarded by a crowd vote for first and second place for Best Chowder and Best Chili in both the professional and amateur divisions. Please find the application on page 10.

For maximum exposure consider sponsoring the event, we have options for any budget. Expose your business to a wide audience through print and digital ads. In 2025 we had over 600 attendees. See sponsorship opportunities on page 11.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund at Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com to secure your sponsorship or sign up to compete.



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

Cleaning Pro 360

Alma Torres
(360) 429-9000
Mount Vernon
www.cleaningpro360.com

We are a locally-owned cleaning company providing reliable, detail oriented residential and commercial cleaning services for families and businesses across Skagit County.

Family Promise of Skagit Valley

Amber Lang
(360) 854-0743
PO Box 335
Sedro-Woolley
www.familypromiseskagit.org

We work with faith communities, businesses, non-profits and volunteers to support families experiencing housing insecurities so that every child has a safe place to call home.

Safe Harbor Legal Solutions

Connie Clement
(360) 746-7169
901 Cleveland Ave Ste 104
Mount Vernon
www.safeharborlegalsolutions.com

We specialize in helping families prepare for and navigate through the complexities of retirement. Your dreams are important, and we're here to help you achieve them.

Zorascalez

Michael Perez
(360) 503-4132
Mount Vernon
www.zorascalez.com

Local marketing agency specializing in web design. We offer special tools like calendar booking systems and SMS text reminders to help your business run better and get more exposure.

Thank you Renewing Members

35+ Years

Blade Chevrolet, Inc.
Community Action of Skagit County
J.D.'s Laundry
Nelson-Reisner
Puget Sound Energy

25+ Years

Mount Vernon Christian School Association

20+ Years

McIntyre Hall, Performing Arts
Vintage at Mount Vernon

15+ Years

HF Sinclair
Tulip Valley Winery
Youthnet

10+ Years

La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib House
Primerica
Skagit Tradition Realty

5+ Years

Helping Hands Food Bank
U.S. Bank- Riverside Dr.

Less than 5 Years

MQ Gadgets Gifts Goodies
Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage
Quality Inn Mount Vernon

Chamber on the Move

“Each stop shines a light on a member”

Each month, our Chamber team and Ambassadors hit the streets to visit member businesses, celebrate their successes, and share their stories with the community.

La Raza



Our first stop in January was La Raza, a vibrant, family-owned supermarket in the heart of downtown Burlington. Offering a true "piece of Mexico," their selection ranges from fresh produce and authentic candy to clothing and home decor. Beyond retail, they provide essential services like wire transfers to Mexico and Latin America, serving as a vital resource for our community.

HomePlace Memory Care



From there, we visited HomePlace Memory Care, which serves individuals living with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other forms of memory loss. Guided by Community Relations Director Autumn Cameron, we toured the cottages, kitchen, and backyard, where we enjoyed seeing residents participating in morning exercises. Through exceptional care and innovative wellness programs, HomePlace creates a supportive, family-like atmosphere for every resident.

Skagit Adult Day Program



Just a few feet away, we stopped by the Skagit Adult Day Program. This supervised daytime program provides a supportive group setting for adults with special cognitive needs. Participants are welcomed each morning with hot coffee and cookies before diving into therapeutic exercises, music, art therapy, and cooking.

Continued on page 6.

Chamber on the Move

“Each stop shines a light on a member”

Golden Hour Café



Continued from page 5.

Before our final stop, we fueled up at Golden Hour Café. Now under new ownership and with a revamped menu, it was the perfect opportunity to visit with Chamber Ambassador Sylvia Alvarez while enjoying chilaquiles, matcha, and specialty chocolate. With its welcoming vibe, Golden Hour is a fantastic spot for catching up with friends or hosting a business meeting.

Children’s Museum of Skagit County



Armed with fresh coffee and cappuccinos, we headed to our last destination, the Children’s Museum of Skagit County. Located at The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington, the museum features 15,400 square feet of interactive, hands-on learning exhibits. We spoke with Executive Director Cate Anderson and learned about the incredible community support offered through the Help Me Grow – Skagit Family Resource Center. Pro-tip: don't forget to check out their museum store for educational toys and books!

We want to extend a huge thank you to La Raza, HomePlace, Skagit Adult Day Program, Golden Hour Café, and the Children’s Museum of Skagit County for their hospitality. Their dedication makes Skagit County a special place to live, work, and do business. We are proud to have these businesses in our Chamber family, and we are equally grateful for the Ambassadors who joined us on these visits Ian Houben (Ambassador Chair) – **Skagit Habitat for Humanity**, Dan Dewispelaere-Rusch – **Global Credit Union**, Alicia Evans – **Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow**, Jaime Huss – **WaFd Bank**, Crystal King – **Chinook Enterprises**, and Ruth Medina – **All Colors Painting LLC**.

Stay tuned for our next "Chamber on the Move" spotlight, coming next month!

Interested in joining our ambassador team? Contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com | (360) 395-2944 for more information.

Save the Date for the Annual Awards Dinner

The Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome back the evening format for our Annual Chamber Awards. We are eager to gather our members and celebrate together.

Please join us on April 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge as we recognize the outstanding contributions of our local business leaders and organizations.

The 2026 Award Categories

Rising Star Award

This award recognizes a Skagit Valley Chamber member that has been in business for less than three years. We are celebrating the businesses that have shown remarkable innovation and community engagement in their first few years of operation.

Legacy Award

Stability is the backbone of our economy. The Legacy Award honors a dedicated Chamber Member of 10 years or more whose enduring presence and consistent support have provided a foundation for our local business community.

Making a Difference Award

This honor is reserved for a member who consistently goes above and beyond to support both the Chamber and our neighbors. We look for individuals or businesses that demonstrate a selfless commitment to community service, contribute significantly to the success of local initiatives, and work proactively to improve the quality of life for all Skagit County residents.

Business Person of the Year

The recipient must demonstrate significant professional achievement, high ethical standards, and a proven track record of leadership that inspires others while driving economic vitality in our region.

Resilience Award

We look for nominees who embody perseverance—those who have not only weathered difficult circumstances but have emerged stronger, serving as a testament to the "rock-solid" grit and determination that defines our business community.

Chairman's & Ambassador of the Year Awards

Selected by the Skagit Valley Chamber leadership, these awards recognize those who provide exceptional service to our organization and our region.

We invite you to help us recognize these outstanding contributions by following the link below to submit your nominations for this year's award recipients.

[Follow this link to send your nominations](#)

Additionally, this event offers a unique platform to showcase your commitment to our community; please take a moment to review our available sponsorship opportunities on page 12 to see how you can get involved.

For more information regarding sponsorships or event details, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com | (360) 395-2944

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

Member at Large - Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

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

HomePlace Memory Care Ribbon Cutting



OPEN HOUSE &

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIBBON CUTTING

FEBRUARY 19, 2026 | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

You're invited to a special **Open House and Chamber of Commerce**

Ribbon Cutting at HomePlace Burlington Memory Care.

**HOMEPLACE AT
BURLINGTON** by COGIR
SENIOR LIVING

UC # 2510 ☎ 📍

Country Financial – The Elton Group Sponsors The Kid Zone at 15th Annual Edison Chicken Parade

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

Send your announcements to

Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com

January in Pictures



Food Service Training Day



Renewing Members at the Membership Luncheon



Latino Business Leaders Taxes 101 Class



Ribbon Cutting at Immaculate Conception Regional School



Speaking of Women Kickoff Breakfast



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Skagit Valley Family YMCA

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
- 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





Presented by:



Saturday, April 4, from 1pm to 4pm at Farmstrong Brewing Company

1st Place Professional Division - \$250 and an award plaque

2nd Place Professional Division - Entry Fee Refunded

1st Place Amateur Division - \$250 and an award plaque

2nd Place Amateur Division - Entry Fee Refunded

Craft Stove Best of Show Award - Award plaque

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I will need electricity to prepare my chili/chowder

No, I have a camp stove or propane to prepare and keep my product warm

I am entering Chili _____ and/or Chowder _____ to the competition

I will be competing as a Professional _____ or Amateur _____

Space is limited! Please fill out and return by Friday, March 13

Please send your completed form and \$35 entry fee to:

Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

For more information please contact Jeremy Kindlund at
(360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com



Sponsorship Opportunities
Saturday, April 4, 2026
at Farmstrong Brewing Company

Royal Sponsor: \$1,250
Company logo prominently displayed on promotional poster
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com
Social media promotion on Chamber channels
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters
Display table at the event
Special recognition during the event
Special recognition at Membership Luncheon

Major Sponsor: \$550
Company logo on poster
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com
Social media promotion on Chamber channels
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters
Recognition during the event
Recognition at Membership Luncheon

Supporting Sponsor: \$325
Company logo displayed on promotional poster
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters
Recognition during the event

Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1007
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 428-8547
Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com





Save the Date

Annual Awards Dinner

Swinomish Casino & Lodge
Thursday April 30
At 5:30 PM



For sponsorship information

Silvia Reed

Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

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

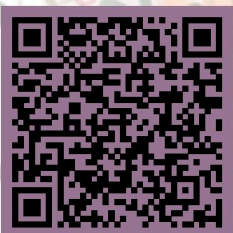


WE Ignite Conference 2026

INSPIRATION

February 28, 2026, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

- 8:30 Doors Open with a Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:15 Opening keynote
- 9:45 Mindset for Dreaming Big
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Speaking Your Truth
- 11:00 Panel
- 12:15 Lunch
- 12:45 Interactive Session: Asset Mapping
- 1:45 Closing Keynote
- 2:15 Facilitated De-Brief
- 3:00 Closing Remarks
- 3:15 Music, Networking & Connection
- 5:00 End



Scan the QR Code to buy your tickets now!

For more information about the event, visit
<https://www.weignitewa.org/>