

CHAMBER CHAT

JANUARY 2026

Rising Together in the New Year!

As we begin a new year, there is every reason to look ahead with optimism, for our businesses, our communities, and our shared future in the Skagit Valley. The recent flooding reminded us of something powerful: when we set aside boundaries, turf, and questions of who gets the credit, we are capable of extraordinary things. Neighbors helped neighbors, public agencies collaborated seamlessly, and businesses stepped forward without hesitation. That spirit of unity is not just a response to crisis; it is a model for how our region can grow stronger every day.

For the Chamber, embracing that model means deepening our connection with you—our members. To lead effectively and serve with purpose, we are increasing our efforts to understand your aspirations and what matters most for your business to succeed. Are you actively building and expanding your business? Are you working to raise your profile and strengthen your presence in the marketplace? Or are you looking for ways to contribute to a thriving, resilient community? Each path is important, and each requires different tools, programs, and advocacy.

Your insights will guide how we refine and focus our efforts, whether that is strengthening our role in advocacy, expanding business-building resources, or engaging fully in vital regional issues. We look forward to a dialogue with you.

This year, let us carry forward the lesson the floods taught us: we are at our best when we move forward together. Partnering with you to will make 2026 a year of progress, prosperity, and shared success.

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 Skagit Valley Family YMCA

Thursday, January 8
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
1901 Hoag Rd
Mount Vernon

Speaking of Women 2026 Kickoff Breakfast

Wednesday, January 14
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
La Catrina Tacos & Tequila
517 S 1st St
Mount Vernon



[Register here](#)

Business E.D.G.E. - Create Your Business SWAT

Tuesday, January 20
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Via Zoom
[Register here](#)

Latino Business Leaders - Tax Planning 101

Presentation in Spanish

Wednesday, January 21
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Skagit Valley College
Lewis Hall 311



[Register here](#)

Food Business Training Day

Friday, January 23
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Mount Vernon Library Commons
208 W Kincaid St
Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

Contractor's Training Day

Friday, January 30
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Skagit Valley College
Multi-purpose room

[Register here](#)

Chamber Membership Luncheon - The Skagit Council of Governments: 60 Years of Collaboration and More Relevant than Ever

Presentation by Jill Boudreau,
Executive Director
Wednesday, January 28
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mount Vernon Library Commons
208 W Kincaid St
Mount Vernon



[Register here](#)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR AMBASSADOR TEAM?





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



Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



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 11.

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 10.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund at Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.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 Member

Hacienda Tequila Mexican Restaurant

Yaritza Pelayo
(360) 899-5253
17 Metcalf St
Sedro-Woolley



www.haciendatequilawa.com

Step into a world of bold flavors, rich traditions, and the lively spirit of Mexico! At Hacienda Tequila, we pride ourselves on serving authentic Mexican cuisine with a modern touch, bringing you the freshest ingredients and spices in every bite. From street-style tacos and handmade tortillas to smoky salsas and slow-cooked meats, our menu is a journey through Mexico's culinary heritage.

Thank you Renewing Members

50+ Years

Skagit Public Utility District

35+ Years

Foothills Toyota

25+ Years

Edward Jones - Timothy U. Price
The Learning Ladder Child Development Center

20+ Years

Chicago Title Company
Copy & Print Store
Fortiphi Insurance

15+ Years

Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County
Country Meadow Village
Fire Mountain Solar LLC
Foss Heating & Cooling
Lefeber Turf Farm
Lithtex Northwest
Lyon's Furniture
Thousand Trails Mount Vernon

10+ Years

Burmaster Homes
Chad Fisher Construction
COA Mexican Eatery
Farmstrong Brewing Company
Global Credit Union
Il Granaio Inc.
Natural Way Chiropractic and Massage
Skagit Valley Food Co-op
The Grand Willow Inn Event Venue and B & B

5+ Years

Fernandez Dental
Law Office of George T. Freeman
Minuteman Press
Northwest Youth Services

Less than 5 Years

A&G Roofing LLC
All Colors Painting LLC
Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship
Country Financial - The Elton Group
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
Diventa Solutions LLC
Hospice of the Northwest Foundation
Northwest Organization for Animal Help (The NOAH Center)
West Coast Reduction USA Inc.

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 12 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. First session is on Tuesday, January 20! [Register here!](#)

Building a Stronger Business Network Together



Great things are meant to be shared. You have the power to strengthen our business community by referring your favorite local partners to the Mount Vernon Chamber. A robust, connected network doesn't happen by accident—it's built by leaders like you.

We invite you to be a Chamber Champion by referring a fellow business or inviting them to join us at an event this month. If your referral joins by January 30, you will earn:

- A Chance to Win a "Staycation Package": Includes a one-night stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton in Burlington, dinner for two at La Catrina Tacos & Tequila, and tickets for two to the Lincoln Theatre.
- Boosted Marketing Power: Receive a free insert in our monthly newsletter, enhanced social media coverage, and a one-month banner ad on our website.

Position yourself as a key connector and community leader by helping onboard the next generation of Chamber members.

For complete details, see the "Great Things Should be Shared" flier on page 13 or contact Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director, at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com or (360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895

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

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

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

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

WAFD Insurance Group is Hiring Personal Lines Account Manager – Mt. Vernon

WAFD Insurance Group is looking for a motivated Personal Lines Account Manager to join our Mt. Vernon team. This role supports clients with home, auto, and other personal insurance needs while delivering excellent service and building long-term relationships.

Whether you have insurance experience or you're looking to make a career change into the industry, we'd love to hear from you. Strong customer service skills, attention to detail, and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment are key.

If interested, please reach out to Hans Eskelsen with your resume at hanse@wafdinsurance.com.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County 2026 Fun Run



Saturday, January 24th

Starts at 9:30 a.m. with runner check in opening at 8 a.m.

Skagit Port Trails, in Burlington, starting and ending at True North Bakery

Register now to participate and show your support for Skagit Clubs! Head to the Skagit Runners sign up portal by clicking the button below! Keep true to your New Year resolution and stay active through the winter months! Let's Get Outside and keep fit together, get registered today!

REGISTER

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

Send your announcements to Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com



December in Pictures



**Chamber Connections Evening
Group Holiday Party**



**Chamber Connections Morning
Group Holiday Party**



**Latino Business Leaders
Holiday Social**



**Chamber Ambassador
Bowling Party**



Shop Local Winners



**Les Schwab Tire Centers
Holiday Toy Drive**

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

