

CHAMBER CHAT

MARCH 2026

Stars Among Us!

Each year at our Annual Awards, this year on April 30, we recognize businesses and individuals who represent the best of our community. Through the Rising Star, Legacy, Making a Difference, Business Person of the Year, and Resilience awards, we celebrate innovation, leadership, service, and perseverance, the qualities that help our local economy and community thrive.

Those qualities have long been part of Skagit County's story. Time and again, people connected to Mount Vernon and Skagit County have gone on to achieve remarkable things while carrying with them the determination and work ethic that define this valley.

Some examples include broadcast journalism pioneer Edward R. Murrow, who grew up in Skagit County and helped shape modern journalism. In sports, Mount Vernon native Mark Hendrickson achieved something very few athletes ever accomplish, playing professionally in both the NBA and Major League Baseball, a testament to perseverance and excellence. Also from Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon native actor Jim Caviezel exemplifies passion and commitment. More recently, local singer-songwriter Savanna Woods gained national attention through her performances on The Voice, reminding us that rising talent continues to emerge from our area.

Our business community has people and businesses that deserve recognition for their achievements. They are our stars and we need your help in identifying them for our awards. Please submit nominations using the QR code in this newsletter.

Please reserve the evening of April 30 to join us for a celebration of the Chamber and outstanding businesses and individuals!



GOLD



SILVER



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

Calendar of Events

Insights from the Top - A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, March 11
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
La Conner Channel Lodge
205 N 1st St
La Conner
[Register here](#)



Business E.D.G.E. - Getting Funding for Your Business

Tuesday, March 17
2 p.m.
Via Zoom
[Register here](#)

Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Trinky Busiu

Thursday, March 12
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
809 Eastern St
Sedro-Woolley

Membership Luncheon - Get to Know County Commissioner Joe Burns

Wednesday, March 25
Town and Country Motorcoach and RV Resort
324 W College Way
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Investing in Students, investing in Skagit Foundation Workforce Development Update

Since 2006, our Chamber Foundation has been committed to workforce development through our Experience Work Project (EWP) initiative. EWP has proudly served over 1,000 students, providing the real-world learning opportunities necessary to succeed in today's economy. Our success is built on a robust network of over 100 regional employers who recognize the immense value of investing in the next generation of professionals.

EWP guides Skagit Valley College students through a professional pipeline—starting with career panels and progressing into immersive job shadows and internships. Gaining this hands-on, real-world experience while still in college is vital; it allows students to apply classroom theory to professional practice, building the confidence and networks they need before they graduate.

Last month, we took EWP participants on a tour of Skagit Gleaners. In addition to exploring the facility, students gained valuable insights from Executive Director Morgan Curry, who shared her own professional journey. This visit allowed students to go behind the scenes of a high-impact nonprofit, learning firsthand how complex operations—from food recovery to community partnerships—drive social change. By seeing these systems in action, students developed a deeper understanding of the vital role nonprofits play in our local economy and the tangible impact they make on the lives of our neighbors.

For more information about the Chamber Foundation and EWP, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com | (360) 395-2944

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. **Deadline is Friday, March 13.** Please find the application on page 8.

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. **Deadline is Friday, March 13.** See sponsorship opportunities on page 9.

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

Fence Brothers

Nathan Conant
(360) 841-7071
742 Marine Dr Ste 8
Bellingham



www.fencebrothers.com

Fence Brothers builds your fence, deck & dock. Whether your dream fence or a cozy deck, our passionate crew builds each project with the same care we'd give to Mom and Dad.

Lynden Sheet Metal

Lauren Ebert
(360) 354-3991
837 Evergreen Street
Lynden



www.lyndensheetmetal.com

Lynden Sheet Metal has proudly served Whatcom County since 1940, offering trusted HVAC, plumbing, electrical, fireplace, and custom metal fabrication services.

Skookum Kids

Rebecca Houston
(208) 412-7771
316 McLeod Rd Ste 108
Bellingham

www.skookumkids.org

Skookum Kids exists to mobilize communities to create a healthy foster care system.

Tapworks Northwest

Casey Sharrow
(360) 422-1664
Mount Vernon

www.tapworksnorthwest.com

Professional beer line cleaning, draft repair & installs for Northwest Washington bars, restaurants & breweries. Bi-weekly service for fresher, great-tasting beer!

WE Ignite

Erin Long
(360) 202-3554
PO Box 165
Burlington

www.weignitewa.org

WE Ignite is an educational non-profit with a mission to ignite the inner spirit of women to connect, inspire, and empower ourselves and each other.

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series



The Riverwalk Concert Series consists of eight weekly concerts on the Mount Vernon Riverwalk Plaza in July and August. 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 7,000+ people into the downtown area during the entire series. The lineup is almost set so stay tuned! There will be sponsorship opportunities so please reach out to Jeremy Kinidlund, Operations Director at Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com for more information. See you on the Riverwalk!

Join us for the Skagit Valley Chamber Annual Awards Dinner

Every day, the businesses and leaders of Skagit Valley work tirelessly to drive our economy forward and uplift our community. Now, it's our turn to celebrate YOU!

We are excited to invite you to the Skagit Valley Chamber Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. at Swinomish Casino & Lodge, an evening dedicated to honoring the incredible impact and success our members have achieved. It is a night to be inspired by the stories of those making a true difference in our valley.

You have the opportunity to be a vital part of this celebration. We invite you to engage with us in three key ways:

- **Nominate:** Help us shine a light on outstanding contributions by nominating a business or professional who has shown true dedication to our community. [Follow this link](#) to submit your nomination
- **Attend:** Join us for an evening of inspiration and community spirit. [Follow this link](#) to buy individual tickets or sponsor a table
- **Sponsor:** Increase your visibility and show your support for the local economy by becoming an event sponsor. Please refer to page 11 for information

For event details and to sponsor the Skagit Valley Chamber Annual Awards Dinner contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com | (360)395-2944

Thank you Renewing Members

30+ Years

Skagit County Fairgrounds

25+ Years

Peoples Bank @ Haggen
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
The Bridge at Mount Vernon

20+ Years

Cascade Facial Surgery and Aesthetics
Skagit Transit

15+ Years

Big Scoop Sundae Palace & Restaurant
Grandy Creek KOA
Mount Vernon Senior & Community Center
Skagit Valley Family YMCA

10+ Years

Frontline Cleaning Services & Supplies
Primerica
Puget Sound Veterinary Group PC

5+ Years

Mount Vernon Neighbors/Skagit Valley Living

Less than 5 Years

Elite Edge Real Estate
Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC
Quantum Construction, Inc
Search Hound LLC
Sherwin-Williams
Skagit Thermography

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

Join Children of the Valley for a vibrant evening in support of local children and families. This festive event includes live mariachi, a Mexican street-style dinner catered by COA Mexican Eatery, inspiring program updates from COV leadership and student speakers, a silent and live auction, Dessert Dash, and more.

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

Time: Doors & Silent Auction open at 5:00 PM | Dinner at 6:30 PM

Location: St. Joseph Center, 215 N. 15th Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Attire: Business Casual

Learn more and stay updated at: childrenofthevalley.org

Skagit Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof Gala

Skagit Habitat for Humanity®

**RAISE
the
ROOF**

Gala & Benefit Auction

APRIL 18, 2026 | 5 PM
SWINOMISH CASINO

Supporting affordable homeownership opportunities in Skagit County.

Dinner | Drinks | Live & Silent Auctions
50/50 Raffle | Dessert Dash

GET TICKETS
SKAGITHABITAT.COM

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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@SkagitValleyChamber.com

February in Pictures

Ambassadors

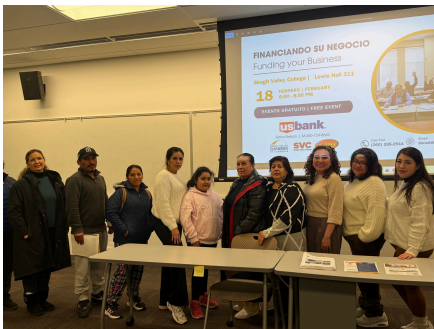
- Chair - Ian Houben**
Skagit Habitat for Humanity
- Betsy Anorbe**
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Silvia Alvarez**
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Clarissa De Vries**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
- Dan Dewispelaere-Rusch**
Global Credit Union
- Morgan Elton**
Country Financial -
The Elton Group
- Alicia Evans**
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



EWP Visit to Skagit Gleaners



HomePlace Ribbon Cutting



Latino Business Leaders



Chamber Membership Luncheon



Ribbon Cutting at Hacienda Tequila Mexican Restaurant



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Lincoln Theatre

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





Annual Awards Dinner

Swinomish Casino & Lodge

Thursday April 30

5:30 to 8:30 PM

CATEGORIES

- Rising Star
- Legacy Award
- Making a Difference Award
- Business Person of the Year
- Resilience Award
- Ambassador of the Year

REGISTRATION

General Admission \$80.00

Table Sponsor \$850.00

Send us your nominations by March 20

www.SkagitValleyChamber.com





Annual Awards Dinner

2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

SPONSORSHIP	BENEFITS	INVESTMENT
<p>Presenting Sponsor 01 Sponsor</p> <p>Deadline 03/20/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company name integrated into the event title • Exclusive opportunity to address the audience the evening of the event • One complimentary table (8 seats) in front and center VIP location • Your logo on printed and digital event marketing material • Your logo on all awards and big screen • Your name and logo in Skagit Valley Herald ad (01 issue) 	<p>\$3,000</p>
<p>Award Sponsor Up to 07 sponsors</p> <p>Deadline 04/03/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company name mentioned during the event • Opportunity to introduce your company during award presentation • Four complimentary admission tickets • Your logo on the big screen • Your logo in Skagit Valley Herald ad (01 issue) 	<p>\$1250</p>
<p>Red Carpet Sponsor Up to 2 sponsors</p> <p>Deadline 04/03/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in event program • Logo displayed in red carpet area • Company name mentioned during the event • Two complimentary admission tickets 	<p>\$1000</p>
<p>Table Sponsor Subject to availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company name and/or logo prominently displayed at the table and event program • One complimentary table (8 seats) 	<p>\$850</p>

Sponsorship and Event Information

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



FLORA LUCATERO
CHILDREN OF THE
VALLEY



KARIN BALDWIN
QUANTUM
CONSTRUCTION INC.



KRISTEN KELTZ
SKAGIT TOURISM
BUREAU

INSIGHTS FROM THE TOP

A “Speaking of Women” Event

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

La Conner Channel Lodge

2026 Series Registration Fees

Chamber Members:	\$ 180.00
Non members:	\$ 250.00
Students	\$ 100.00

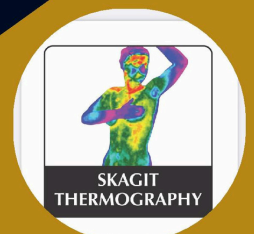
Registration fees include monthly coffee chats, VIP hour and panels below

- Insights from the Top (March 11)
- The Power of Enough (June 17)
- Success without Apologies (September 9)

www.SkagitValleyChamber.com

email: Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

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





TITLE SPONSOR
GLOBALTM
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

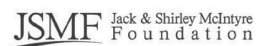
AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT!
ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL

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 FOR DETAILS.

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE!



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

 @covskagit

 covmv.org

 @covskagit