CHAMBER CHAT

September 2022

Building Your Team and our Community

By Andy Mayer/President & CEO

This month there are two programs that will help with an immediate and pressing need that I know you have, which is finding and retaining good employees. There is also a significant milestone for us to celebrate together, the breaking ground for the Mount Vernon Library Commons project.

Our Knowledge Now program, "Building a Better Workplace: Recruitment & Retention Strategies," is on the 14th. It will help you examine and improve your hiring process. And obviously, keeping employees happy and committed to your company so turnover is lower is important too. The other employment related program this month is "Bilingual Staff – How to Recruit and Retain Them," on the 15th. It is cohosted by the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation and Community Action of Skagit County, to help employers in their recruitment and retention efforts of an important segment of the workforce.

The Mount Vernon Library Commons Groundbreaking Ceremony on September 17, at 10:00 a.m. The project will build community and generate economic development through its thoughtful combination of services necessary for the well-being of City residents and visitors. It will include library services, community center space, and structured parking with ample vehicle charging capacity. The meeting space accommodates groups of up to 300 people and will have a commercial kitchen attached. I imagine that it will be our future home for our Membership Luncheons. Join us at the groundbreaking if you can. It marks a significant investment in the future of Mount Vernon.



LEGACY MEMBERS

GOLD





SILVER









M HF Sinclair





Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce (360) 428-8547
<u>mountvernonchamber.com</u>

SCORE //

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Knowledge NOW - Building a Better Workplace: Recruitment & Retention Strategies

Presented by: Kristina Hines, Certified Business

Advisor - SBDC

Wednesday, September 14

12 p.m.

Register here

\$10 for members / \$15 for non-members

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

Learn best practices for hiring and retaining employees in our currently difficult market.

Multi-Chamber After Hours at Stone Pros

Thursday, September 8

4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

401 E Sharon Ave

Burlington

Join all six of the Skagit County chambers of commerce for an in-person networking event at Stone Pros. Have fun and expand your network!

Bilingual Staff - How to recruit and retain them

Thursday, September 15

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

via Zoom

Register here

Develop and enhance cultural competence behaviors, enhance your ability to attract bilingual staff and embrace a different culture in your organization. In collaboration with Community Action of Skagit County. Sponsored by: Law Office of Hector Leal



Latino Business Leaders - Empezando su nueva empresa / Starting your new business

Presented by Rob Martin, SCORE

en español

Wednesday, September 21

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

Register here

\$10 for members / \$15 non-members

Ribbon Cutting at Cascade Landing

Tuesday, September 27

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

160 Cascade Place

Burlington

Register here

Chamber Membership Luncheon - Candidate Forum

We will hear from Skagit County Races for Assessor,

Auditor and Commissioner

Wednesday, September 28

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

Register here

Hillcrest Park

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

\$23 with RSVP; \$25 day-of

Sponsored by: Helping Hands Solution Center



Member reveals positive return on investment

Becoming a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has been very beneficial. As a leader of a local nonprofit agency, I was at first hesitant to join, thinking our agency does not meet the criteria (we are not selling a physical product). However, I decided to give it a try. I took the opportunity to learn more about my community and meet some amazing people. I appreciate how the Chamber staff strategically plan and tailor events to meet the needs of the community while also promoting the various businesses, events and nonprofits. I especially appreciate Silvia Reed and her willingness to check in with me just to see how things are going and if she can be of assistance with any upcoming projects or events. This personal connection allows for leaders such as myself to feel connected and supported, especially during the pandemic.



Through this membership, I've learned more about business strategies, marketing our "product," and found easy ways to network with other leaders. Our investment in the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has really been an investment in myself as a leader and ultimately in the agency I represent. As a local nonprofit serving Skagit County, I proudly support the Chamber, and I encourage other nonprofits to invest in their professional development by becoming a member.

Amanda Sloan, Executive Director
Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC)

BRONZE LEGACY



























































Get to Know Ismaflow Boutique LLC

Located on Riverside Dr. in Mount Vernon, a nice selection of women clothing adorns the windows of Ismaflow Boutique. Their collection ranges from casual to formal in a variety of colors and styles. Boutique owner Flor Villanueva shares the story about her boutique and its unique name.

Flor's adventure started with her child Isaiah. She remembers how her world completely changed with the arrival of her first born. Those days were crazy for Flor who oftentimes was not able to find the work/live balance we all desire, but few accomplish. She kept trying a better way to get there but finally decided that as crazy as life was, this could be the perfect time to start her new business. But the beginnings looked very different. The road was not easy and she was not about to take shortcuts. Flor started selling \$5 accessories and daydreaming of a bigger business. It took her close to 3 years of internal battles to finally decide it was time to pursue her dream; the dream of boutique ownership.



Flor Villanueva, Owner of Ismaflow

Each day has been a challenge, being a first-time mom and a business owner is not easy and at times requires Flor to make difficult decisions. She is happy seeing her customers empowered and proud when they enjoy their clothing.

Ismaflow is not a name that you find in the dictionary. The Ismaflow name is the combination of the three pillars that motivate Flor to continue growing as a business owner.

Isaiah (Flor's son), Marco (her husband), Flor: ISMAFLOW

Next time you stop at Ismaflow, surprise Flor by sharing what you know about the boutique's name while you shop for your favorite accesory. Be sure and follow Ismaflow's facebook page for special sales and upcoming events including the celebration of their first-year anniversary on Riverside Dr. Ismaflow is located at 2112 Riverside Dr in Mount Vernon.

www.ismaflowboutique.com





Board of Directors

Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

Vice Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Past Chair - David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

Treasurer - Rhonda Tingley

SaviBank

Member at Large - Duby Petit

Skagit Publishing

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Jesse Lopez

Infinity Painting & Renovations

Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Andrew Miller

Tulip Town

Todd Owsley

Farmstrong Brewing Company

Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Alaska USA

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and

Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Marinus Rouw & Emeleah Magaña

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Skagit Valley College bachelor's degree program featured for advancing access, equity, outcomes

Skagit Valley College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration (BASAM) was recently featured in "20 Promising Practices to Advance Quality, Equity, and Success in Community College Baccalaureate Degree Programs," an e-book published by the Community College Baccalaureate Association. "The BASAM program feature highlights the phenomenal cross-college collaboration that has taken place in taking this program and the underlying concepts from ideas to reality to make a bachelor in management degree a possibility for our local community" said BAS-Applied Management instructor and Program Chair Sunaina Virendra. "It makes me so proud to be part of an institution that makes this kind of work and impact possible."

Alaska USA Foundation Launches Annual Cash for Cans® Donation Drive

The Alaska USA Foundation is kicking off its ninth annual Cash for Cans®donation drive in support of National Hunger Awareness Month. Throughout September, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, its members, and nonprofit partners will be working together to collect funds to help combat local hunger. Both members and non-members can support Cash for Cans by visiting any Alaska USA or Global Credit Union branch location or by donating online. These donations are then given back to service area communities to assist food banks and pantries with feeding children, families, and seniors experiencing hunger.



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

Send your announcements to

Jeremy@mountvernonchamber.com

Chamber starts partnership with the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce

Last summer while all our meetings and events were being held via zoom, we noticed that the Latino Business Leaders (LBL) monthly sessions were joined by entrepreneurs from King, Pierce and other counties south of Seattle. Their participation brought a different dimension to our business conversations. The next step was to look for the organizations serving the Latino businesses in those areas. And just as we always recommend our members, we started building those relationships.

Today we are proud to announce that the Chamber foundation has secured a partnership with the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. SLMCC aims to serve Latino business owners and professionals creating ground for progress and entrepreneurial success. This partnership will allow both organizations to find mutual synergies between SLMCC and the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation's LBL program for the benefit of our communities. Thanks to this partnership our LBL participants will now be able to access resources and attend events facilitated by SLMCC while the Chamber Foundation's LBL program will equally welcome all SLMCC to its events and programs. By doing this, members and participants from different organizations will have the opportunity to expand their network, exchange ideas, and learn from different markets.

Ambassadors

Chair - Liz Theaker Camp Korey Betsy Anorbe

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

Susan Cooper Susan Cooper

Ector DeLeonTulip Valley Winery

WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.

Carol Harris

Joley Garner

PrimeLending Crystal King

NW Technology

Blake Rawlins

Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow

Tammy Reim-Ledbetter Alaska USA Tony Salas

Eden Home Health

We are thrilled with this new partnership and for our Latino businesses in Skagit County and beyond.



Partner Members

Allstate - Mayra Nava Agency, Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Costco Wholesale, D&P Electronic Home Monitoring, Foothills Toyota, Fortiphi, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, Pacific Premier Bank, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, White Branches,

Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Thank You Renewing Members

30+ Years

Chinook Enterprises

Foothills Toyota

Hawthorne Funeral Home, Crematory & Memorial Park

Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor & Home

Port of Skagit

Riverside Health Club

Skagit Regional Health

Windermere Real Estate/Skagit Valley

20+ Years

Edward Jones - Timothy U. Price

Lincoln Theatre

15+ Years

Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow

Ideal Rent-All

PeaceHealth United General Medical Center

Sierra Pacific Industries

Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

10+ Years

HKP Architects

Modern Cleaners

Salem Village

5+ Years

BrandQuery LLC

Cory Kiehn, Realtor Windermere RE Skagit Valley

Legg & Watne, CPAs

Loving Farms

Northwest Propane, LLC

Papa Willie's BBQ and Catering

Rainy Day Basement Systems

Washington Vocational Services

Less than 5 Years

Applebee's

Banner Bank

Creations by Carri

Intellitonic

Northwest Natural Care

Sound to Summit Physical Therapy

Tucker Realty ERA Powered

Welcome New Members

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1705 E College Way Ste C

Mount Vernon

www.Beautyfix.me

Aesthetic services including: Botox, dermal fillers, Kybella, IV hydration, skin lesion evaluation and removal, and tooth whitening.

I offer affordable services to serve all residents in Island, Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Skagit, and Whatcom County.

C.A.R.E. Medical Center

Irene Bazan (360) 428-4777 110 N 15th Street **Mount Vernon**



www.caremedicalcenter.org

C.A.R.E. Medical Center is an Accredited Medical Clinic caring for those touched by unplanned pregnancy.

Maria Martinez Real Estate Broker - EXP Realty

Maria Martinez

(360) 941-8690

2815 Elliott Ave Ste 100

Seattle

www.mariamcruz.exprealty.com

My main motivation is to empower clients to make smart decisions aligned with their Real Estate goals.

Marco Wanless (425) 242-8300

12858 NE 112th Street

Seattle

www.seattlelatino.org

Aimed to serve Latino business owners and professionals creating ground for progress and entrepreneur success. The SLMCC seeks to be a permanent united voice that advocates for the Latino business community.

August in pictures



Chamber members network at the Biz Buzz
Networking Luncheon



Members receive their anniversary certificates at the Membership Luncheon



Chamber Connections morning group



Chamber Connections noon group



Consejo Counseling and Referral Service ribbon cutting



The Hair Republic ribbon cutting

Successful kick-off the 2022-2023 Latino Business Leaders Program

The Latino Business Leaders 2022-2023 program was successfully launched in late august. With over 50 attendees between established and start-up businesses that will be walking the entrepreneurship path with the Latino Business Leaders (LBL) and the Mount Vernon Chamber. Monthly business training starts with "Preparing your Business Plan" presented by Rob Martin, SCORE and continues each third Thursday of the month until June of 2023. Monthly sessions are presented in two modules; How to Start your Business Successfully and How to Market your Business. The second module will start with "Preparation of the Marketing Plan" and topics that range from google ranking to using video as a marketing tool.

We invite established and start-up Latino businesses to join the program and gain needed resources to run their business and take it to the next level. Monthly sessions are delivered in Spanish as well as individual consultations by SCORE. New this year is the launching of a peer-to-peer mentorship program where successful Latino business owners will provide support to those new in business. The new partnership between the Chamber Foundation's Latino Business Leaders Program and the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will also allow Latino businesses from both organizations to have access to more resources and collaboration opportunities.

With an emphasis on Inclusiveness and Diversity, the mission of the Latino Business Leaders program is to facilitate the advancement and participation of the Latino entrepreneurs in our region.

For sponsorship/partnership information please contact Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944







BUSINESS LIDINADS

TRAINING PROGRAM DELIVERED



2022 - 2023 SCHEDULE



Includes:

- Monthly training sessions and workshops
- Networking events
- One-on-one consultations
- Peer-to-peer mentorship

For information and to RSVP

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com Call/Text (360) 395-2944

www.MountVernonChamber.com

AUGUST 30 - 6 PM

LBL Meet & Greet

SEPTEMBER 21 - 6 PM

Starting your new business

OCTOBER 20 - 6 PM

Business licenses and permits

NOVEMBER 17-6 PM

Business Panel

DECEMBER 15 - 6 PM

LBL Holiday Social

JANUARY 19 - 6 PM

Tax Preparation

FEBRUARY 16 - 6 PM

Learning about Labor & Industries (L&I)

MARCH 16 - 6 PM

Creating your Marketing Plan

APRIL 20-6 PM

improving your visibility with google

May 18 - 6 PM

Social networks and video for business

June 15 - 6 PM

Expanding to the non-Latino market

All sessions are held at the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce unless otherwise noted

PROGRAMA DE ENTRENAMIENTO EMPRESARIAL



Programa 2022 - 2023



Que incluye?

- Sesiones y talleres mensuales
- Eventos de networking
- Asesoria individualizada
- Mentoria con empresarios de su industria

INFORMES E INSCRIPCIONES

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com Llamada/texto (360) 395-2944

www.MountVernonChamber.com

30 DE AGOSTO - 6 PM

LBL Meet & Greet

21 DE SETIEMBRE - 6 PM

Empezando su nueva empresa

20 DE OCTUBRE - 6 PM

Licencias y permisos de negocios

17 DE NOVIEMBRE - 6 PM

Panel de Empresarios

15 DE DICIEMBRE - 6 PM

LBL Holiday Social

19 DE ENERO - 6 PM

Preparando sus impuestos

16 DE FEBRERO - 6 PM

Conociendo a Labores & Industrias (L&I)

16 DE MARZO - 6 PM

Elaboracion de su plan de marketing

20 de Abril - 6 PM

Mejorando su visibilidad con google

18 de Mayo - 6 PM

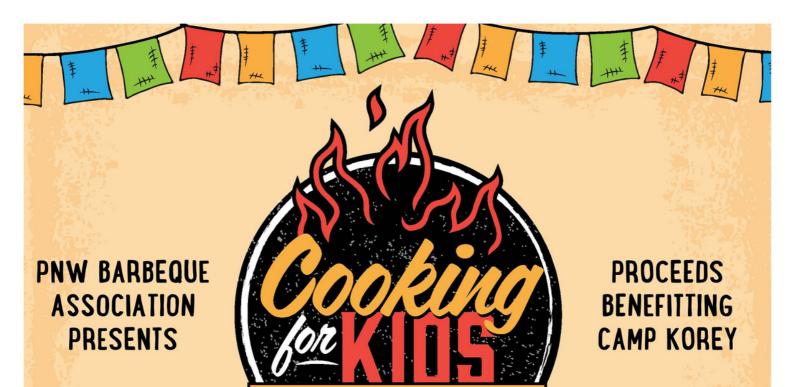
Uso de redes sociales y creacion de video

15 de Junio - 6 PM

Alcanzando el mercado no-Latino

Las sesiones son en la Camara de Comercio de Mount Vernon a menos que se especifique diferente en el flyer del evento

Latino Business Leaders es un programa de la Camara de Comercio de Mount Vernon creado para facilitar el avance y participacion del empresario Latino en nuestra region



PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION & TASTING BBQ FOOD • FAMILY FUN & GAMES ENTERTAINMENT • EXOTIC CAR SHOW

CAMP KOREY | 10 - 4 |

24880 BROTHERHOOD RD., MT. VERNON, WA 98274

17 SEPT



LEARN MORE: CAMPKOREY.ORG/OUR-EVENTS/BBQ

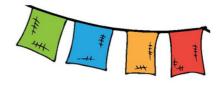




SERVING KIDS WITH LIFE-ALTERING MEDICAL CONDITIONS.
ALWAYS 100% FREE OF CHARGE.







ABOUT US

Camp Korey provides year-round programs for children with life-altering medical conditions and their families, always 100% free of charge. Since our founding, we have served over 37,000 campers from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond through Residential Summer Camp, Family Weekends, Family Day Adventures, Camper Care Packages, and Camp-to-You hospital outreach efforts. Founded in 2005, we are one of nine U.S. camps in the SeriousFun Children's Network founded by Paul Newman.

WHO DO YOU SERVE?

Camp Korey serves families with children (ages 7-17) with over 90 different life-altering medical diagnoses such as sickle cell disease, mitochondrial disease, skeletal dysplasia, burn survivors, solid organ transplant, and more.

WHAT MAKES CAMP KOREY DIFFERENT?

At Camp Korey, our programs are intentionally designed to help campers build confidence, grow independence, make friends, try new things, and enjoy the simple joys of childhood. Every activity is adapted and tailored to our campers' abilities. Campers and families are supported by trained counselors, volunteer medical providers, and nurses to ensure all medical and psychosocial needs are met.

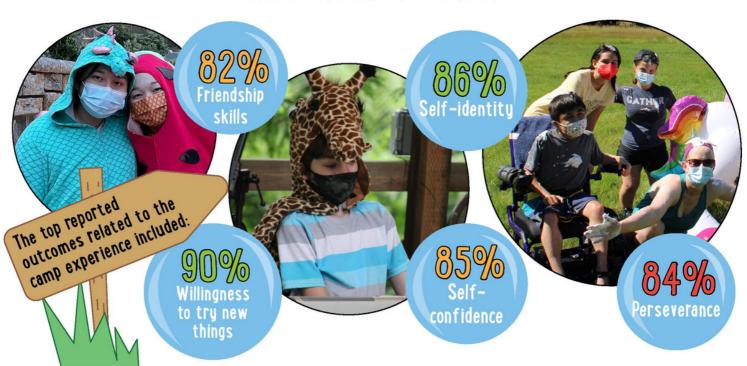
HOW MUCH DOES CAMP COST?

Camp Korey programming is always provided 100% free of charge, made possible by generous donors and supporters!

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways to support Camp Korey including volunteering your time, participating in events, and making general donations. Learn more at www.campkorey.org.

CAMP KOREYS IMPACT!



JOIN US FOR

THE HARVEST

AT SKAGIT ACRES

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US!

ALL-WEATHER PUMPKIN MARKET (GIFTS KID ZONE

VINTAGE MARKET (FOOD & DRINKS PHOTO OPS

BRECKY'S FACE PAINTING MA & PA KETTLE CORN

FARM ANIMAL RESCUE & MENTORING PETTING ZOO

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SKAGIT COUNTY FALL CLASSES

CAMPFIRE CHEF BBQ COMPETITION - OCT 1ST ONLY

EVERY WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

Open 10am - 5pm Free Entry

MORE INFORMATION

skagitacres.com 🎁 facebook.com/skagitacres 🎁 360.424.6760



18923 Peter Johnson Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



MOUNT VERNON LIBRARY COMMONS GROUNDBREAKING

Mayor Jill Boudreau and City Council cordially invite you to our Groundbreaking Ceremony

We celebrate a civic project that includes: a public library, community center, commercial kitchen, and structured parking with 76 EV charging stations

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 10:00 AM

208 W. KINCAID STREET MOUNT VERNON





For more information:

mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov or (360) 336-6211



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Solutions
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Contact us for more information (360) 676-8772 - Option 3 (sales) Sales@Pogozone.com

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