President’s Luncheon on April 13 will feature state ferries presentation

Chamber members will hear more about the dramatic Washington State Ferries (WSF) Anacortes Ferry Terminal Project at the April 13 President’s Luncheon.

WSF is proceeding with plans to expand and improve the Anacortes ferry terminal. The President’s Luncheon will feature a presentation from WSF representatives including Project Manager Gary Baldasari, who will give a project update, discuss terminal design, and share next steps in the process. Why is the project needed? What are the benefits of the improved terminal? How can you provide input? Learn the answers to these questions and more, because Gary’s comments will be followed by a Q&A session.

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear about the terminal project and share your comments. RSVP today at 293-7911 for the noon luncheon at the Salvation Army, 3001 “R” Avenue.

Anacortes American sponsors President’s event

Sponsor of the April 13 President’s Luncheon will be the Anacortes American, publisher Jack Darnton.

The American, an award-winning community newspaper, was established in 1890 by Douglass Allmond and F.H. Boynton, who pledged: “...to publish an honest, independent, aggressive newspaper that shall tell the story of our marvelous city and its surroundings, is the aim of its proprietors, and to accomplish this they expect the hearty support of all who have the welfare of our city at heart.”

The newspaper office is located across the street from City Hall at 901 6th Street; telephone 293-3122. It is owned and printed by the Skagit Valley Herald Publishing Company in Mount Vernon.

Business After Hours to be co-hosted by Digital Art Moments, Gere-a-Deli

Our upcoming Business After Hours will be co-hosted at Digital Art Moments, 512 Commercial Ave, and Gere a Deli, 502 Commercial on April 20 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

The event will begin at 5:30 with a ribbon-cutting celebration at Digital Art Moments. Then Chamber members will have the opportunity to spend time getting to know Karla and Tony Locke, and to see how they’ve expanded upon the concept of what a photo gallery can be.

Members will be invited to stroll between the two hosting venues, and won’t want to miss a chance to taste Laurie Gere’s fabulous hors d’oeuvres.

Digital Art Moments is a unique and fun place to visit, allowing customers to take life’s precious moments and be creative with them,” says Tony. “We provide products, (Continued on page 2)
Destination Downtown Anacortes

Revitalization effort continues

For the past several years, the Destination Downtown Anacortes (DDA) Board and many devoted downtown business owners have made significant strides toward improving the appearance and business climate of our downtown.

I want you to know that we very much appreciate these combined efforts. I also want you to know that we have a long way to go. DDA is committed to the ongoing revitalization of our downtown in three major ways:

1. The Design Committee is responsible for everything that is visual about downtown Anacortes. Chairperson Bob Hyde and his enthusiastic fellow committee members are working on a number of items, including an item or two related to the arch; working with the arts community (including the new Arts Commission) to explore ways to display more of the works of our own artists; working with the Chamber Beautification director, Marilee Maricich to bring color and fragrance to our streets. As in many ventures, there is much to do, and it is great to see this committee roll up its sleeves and get to it. Natural partners for this committee include the City of Anacortes, the Port of Anacortes and the services and fun classes relating to digital photography, Photoshop software, photo restoration, photo printing, digital music, digital video, and Podcasting.”

“Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to make reservations for this exciting Business After Hours event for the photographer/deli diner in all of us.

2. The Promotion Committee has a full plate as well. This committee is responsible for the planning of events (both fun events and fund events). There are many great event ideas currently on the table. The Committee also is responsible for awards and recognition for accomplishments by downtown businesses.

3. The Economic Development Committee is charged with a huge task. This group will take inventory of the entire DDA territory, review the Community Survey currently being taken, then attempt to put together a plan that identifies the needs of our downtown business community. Identifying the needs, being prepared for folks interested in, and inquiring about, starting a business in Anacortes, and perhaps even recruiting businesses to fill the gaps is the challenge for this committee. Their whole purpose is to strengthen and solidify the business climate in our DDA area.

I am very excited about the direction that DDA is going and the commitment of those who serve on the DDA Board as well as those on its committees. Suggestions and volunteers are always welcome.

Duane Clark
DDA Chairman

Beautification efforts include new hanging baskets

Look for beautiful hanging floral baskets throughout the business community in the wake of considerable work by volunteer members of the Beautification Committee.

Marilee Maricich of the committee emphasizes that available hanging baskets have already been distributed for this year, but she encourages interested business and shop owners to do their own thing – and sign up early for next spring’s baskets.

“This is a charming town, and we want to make it even more so by splashing color in gardens, baskets and planters throughout the city,” said Marilee. “This year we had a huge response to the limited offer of baskets for businesses. We want to create beautiful displays like those tourists encounter in communities like Victoria, B.C. and Leavenworth.”

Baskets will begin to appear at the end of the month. Marilee notes that each merchant is responsible for watering his or her own basket.

Update your business information

It may not have been among your New Year’s resolutions, but this is a good time to review and update information regarding your business.

Check our printed materials as well as the Chamber website at www.anacortes.org to confirm that our information regarding your business is still current.

For changes, contact Member Services Manager Sue Keller at 293-7911.

Digital Art Moments, Gere-a-Deli

(Continued from page one)

services and fun classes relating to digital photography, Photoshop software, photo restoration, photo printing, digital music, digital video, and Podcasting.”

“We can do the work for you, or with the use of our Apple iMac computers, we’ll empower you to think outside the box using your digital photos, music or video to enhance your creativity on your own projects - then save them to DVD for sharing with friends and family. Our in-store and on-line galleries will provide accessories and photo supplies, along with photos for sale by ‘Almost Famous Photographers’.”

Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to make reservations for this exciting Business After Hours event for the photographer/deli diner in all of us.
How It Works

Over the company’s 12-year history, thousands of clients have come to know and appreciate “How It Works.” How It Works, located at 1014 4th Street in Anacortes, is staffed by a multi-faceted team of professionals led by founder and president Chris Terrell.

Chris, a successful multi-business owner, started How It Works in 1994 after recognizing the need for affordable, high quality media in the local area. As a growing and evolving entity, How It Works continues to expand its capabilities as technology advances.

“Our main purpose,” says Chris, “is to fulfill our clients’ identity and marketing goals. We are here not only to help establish that identity, but to make a splash in the marketplace.”

The How It Works team brings considerable talents to the table, coupled with skills for utilizing the latest technological tools. Their work ranges from graphic design, printing and advertising, videography (production and post-production); from art reproduction (Giclee print) to web development, with a focus on e-commerce solutions and much more.

“We have clients all over the country,” notes Chris, “but some of our greatest satisfaction comes from working with artists and business people here in our community.” Working closely with our professional staff will provide you with a product that meets your objectives at a level of quality that exceeds your expectations.

For more information, call 293-3515, or visit www.howitworks.com.

Nominations sought for small business of the year

The Small Business Resource Center and the seven area chambers of commerce have once again put together a fabulous evening to award the small business of the year. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Dinner will be held on May 25, 2006 at McIntyre Hall.

Steve Beitler will be keynote speaker, sharing his success story at Skagit Speedway. Each chamber will have three nominees with the winner being announced at the evening event. There will then be an overall county winner as well as a presentation of the Latino Business of the Year.

The Anacortes Chamber is now accepting nominations based on the following guidelines: staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, innovative product and service, improved financial position, response to adversity and contributions to aid community projects (for a complete list, contact the Chamber, 293-7911).

Please submit nominations to the Chamber, 819 Suite F, Anacortes, WA 98221, no later than April 7.

An Internet presence can be an important investment in your company marketing plan, and you won’t find a more colorful Anacortes-based website. Purchase a banner ad on AnacortesToday.com, updated on a daily basis by local writer and photographer Steve Berentson. Call 293-4852 for details.
Caught in the Act of Doing Business

Open just in time for April's First Friday Art Walk is Sasso's Restaurant. Sasso's, formerly located on the south end of Commercial Avenue at the Islands Inn, moved recently to 701 Commercial Avenue, last occupied by PW Murphy's. Owners George and Stacia Sasso (pictured) are excited to have diners visit their new downtown digs, where an inviting menu of Northwest Cuisine includes tasty items ranging from crepes with prawns, to Dungeness Crab and Kodiak Island Sockeye Salmon. Sasso's Restaurant is now open at 11 a.m., seven days a week. For information or reservations, call 293-9688.

Special Thanks to...

Thanks to the following for door prizes and other contributions:

**Business Connection**
Art Smart of Anacortes
American Cancer Society
Viking Moving Services, LLC

**Networking Luncheon**
Mister T’s Awards & Embroidery
Thank you to Mike Keller of Scott Richards Insurance, Curt Oppel Realtor at John L. Scott for taking down the winter banners from downtown.
Thank you to Jack Hamilton assisting at business after hours.

**Beautification donation**
Island Adventure Charters

**Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling**
ALL Data Shredding
ArtSmart of Anacortes
Biz Point Communications
Chandlers Square
Kay Eagling
KLKI Radio
Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
Pacific Design Screen Printing
Soroptimist International of Fidalgo Island
The Beach House
New Members

Anacortes Community & Youth Arts
Fine art instruction, drawing, painting, glass, clay, dance, ballet, tap, tango, art for all ages.
Traci Taylor
619 Commercial Avenue #14, PO Box 395, Anacortes
360-299-9366
www.acya.org

Digital Art Moments
Creating life’s moments with Digital Art. Photography, video, music and Podcasting.
Karla & Tony Locke
512 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
360-588-6968
www.digitalartmoments.com

Sound Events
Event planning, sound equipment set up and rentals.
Terri Larson
17085 Britt Road
Mount Vernon, 98273
360-770-3483

Valor Automotive Sales
Used car and truck sales. Great, dependable, affordable. Autos from $2,000-$8,000.
Dan Sandstrom
S. March Pt. Road
PO Box 1968, Anacortes
360-293-3300

Member News

The April Gallery Walk is Friday, April 7 from 6 – 9 p.m. Be sure to visit the newest addition to the walk: Digital Art Moments at 512 Commercial (see page one).

714 Commercial Ave., Artsmart
2006 Tulip Festival poster artist, Beki Kiloran will be signing prints.

711 Commercial Ave.,
Anne Martin McCool Gallery
The gallery is showing quilt and fiber art by Joan Colvin in addition to paintings by Anne Martin McCool.

619 Commercial Ave.,
Keystone Center for the Arts
Studios open for the event are Jason Falk, Alice Kapka, Zeta Wolf Silk Art Gallery and Elizabeth’s Cottage by the Sea.

516 Commercial Ave., Insights Gallery
The new show titled, “Introducing…” features new artists Sharon Freeman and Phillip Glashoff. Freeman offers stunning floral watercolors and Glashoff is a sculptor from Northern California showing whimsical figures of people and animals. Also work by Ramona Hammerly, William Slater, Dianna Shynne and others.

512 Commercial Ave.,
Digital Art Moments
The gallery is featuring photography by 13-year-old Mandi of Anacortes.

510 Commercial Ave., Adrift
The café is showing quilts by local quilting group “That’s Imagine.”

420 Commercial Ave., Scott Milo Gallery
The gallery features plein air pastel landscapes by Steve Hill, pastels by Joel Brock, watercolors by Denise Cole, enhanced monotype prints by Shari Osti and Native American carvings by Kevin Paul, quilts by local quilters.

1005 4th Street, Johnny Picasso’s
The café is featuring a creative selection of quilts by Linden Ellingson, Thais Yost and Virginia Murphy.

611 R Ave, Gallery at the Depot
The Depot features the work of quilters Susanne Carlisle and Susanne Staton. The exhibit is called “Gardens of Art.”

801 5th Street, Bowman Gallery
The Bowman Gallery shows the work of Paula Peterson of Skagit Valley. She spends her winters in Guatemala and her paintings are joyful and bright.
Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiled

Doing the honors at the unveiling of the 2006 Anacortes Waterfront poster unveiling was Thomas Wood of Shell Puget Sound Refinery, sponsor of the poster. Pictured at left is long-time Waterfront Festival volunteer Mike Keller, who took the WT Preston photograph used for this year’s poster. Mark your calendar now for a weekend of good times, May 20 and 21. A May 19 kickoff dinner co-hosted by the Port of Anacortes, the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) and the Chamber. To purchase tickets, call EDASC at 336-6114.