The Island Hospital Medical Office Building (MOB) is located at 2511 M Ave. and houses a wide variety of medical services. The top level has The Walk-In Clinic at Island Hospital (offering services Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Anacortes Family Medicine, Island Hospital Diabetes Education and Island Family Physicians. The lower level has Island Hospital’s Center for Aesthetic, Reconstructive & Hand Surgery, Psychiatry & Behavioral Health and Cardiopulmonary Care Center; and Skagit Regional Clinics—Cardiology. April Business After Hours attendees will “self-tour” through the building’s services with raffles in each clinic as incentive. More than 20 raffle prizes are expected to be awarded for the luckier attendees. For more information about any of these services visit www.islandhospital.org. Please RSVP at anacortes.org.
On March 24 a group of Anacortes and Friday Harbor residents travelled to Sidney BC to celebrate the re-opening of our marine highway on the international ferry. This comes not a moment too soon as our neighbors to the north begin their almost monthly three day weekends (see box for dates). We publish a full page ad in the Times Colonist tourism section the week prior to these holidays, which is part advertising and mostly advertorial. These stories focus on our events, our character, and our awesome amenities to entice Canadians to spend their holidays with us. Last year we handed out “posters” welcoming Canadians, be sure to remember to post them proudly!

April also marks the return of the American Cruise Lines scheduled for 16 stay overs in our community in 2013. A taskforce has been working to ensure their stay is memorable, hoping to entice these travelers back for longer stays in Anacortes.

The Anacortes Spring Boat Show is the first weekend in April; the Marine Trades Group keeps adding to this event, which is a great draw for visitors looking to purchase a boat or use marine services.

Currently our whale watching vessels are in search of grey whales, with the orca season arriving the second weekend of May. Our other charter and tour companies are gearing up for their big seasons as well.

And of course the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is on April 13!

As our community gears up for all of these visitors, the chamber is hosting customer service training opportunities facilitated by Bob Hyde of the Port of Anacortes. Our hope is to offer this training to all front line workers in Anacortes—a lofty goal! Watch for more information on this.

Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show

Skagit County Chamber Executive Directors Association (SCCEDA) working together to help promote Skagit county as a tourist destination, supported a booth at the Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show in Vancouver, BC this past month. The outcome was a grand success with prizes donated by local hotels, retailers, restaurants and festivals across the county.

We were a popular booth with great giveaways.

Volunteers Amber Soria of Soria Real Estate, Rodolfo Rodriguez with R&R Consulting, Gustavo Ramos from Skagit County Housing Authority and Jill Andrews with Certified Folder gave time and enthusiasm to booth visitors to help Skagit tourism.

Canadian three-day weekends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 29/30/31</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 12/13/14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9/10/11</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left: Skagit County booth at the Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show.
Right: Jill Andrews (Certified Folder) choosing drawing winner on day one.
member profile

TCI (Thompson Communications Incorporated)

Thompson Communications Incorporated (TCI) recently opened its first branch office in Anacortes earlier this year. Headquartered in Coeur d’Alene, ID, TCI provides voice and data services for small to medium sized businesses. Opened in 2003 as Thompson Communications, the company was incorporated in 2006 and became TCI.

“The idea of expanding the company had been discussed for the last couple of years”, said Jeff Bear, the manager of TCI-West. Jeff moved to Anacortes six years ago to enjoy the boating opportunities and explore the area he had been visiting for the previous eleven years. Having to commute to Tacoma where he worked was challenging and didn’t fit with the reason he moved here. Wanting to get back in the community and work with local companies was a driving force in opening TCI-West. Jeff had worked for TCI when he lived in Coeur d’Alene and was excited for the opportunity to expand the company to this area.

Opening an office in Anacortes just made sense according to Tad Thompson, owner of TCI. Having served Spokane and Kootenai counties from the corporate headquarters, Tad and Jeff saw that Skagit and Whatcom counties shared a very similar economic outlook and that the local businesses were sized comparably.

TCI has been a leader in helping small businesses through transitions. Organizations that are moving to a new office, changing staff size, or providing different ways for their customers to interact with them are times when they typically re-evaluate their telecom and computer needs. Understanding those needs and providing services and solutions that are beneficial is a large part of the success of TCI and its customers.

TCI sells and services most telephone and voicemail systems, computers and computer networking equipment, voice and data cabling, and security cameras. Call Jeff at 360-824-5264 or email jbear@cdaphones.com to discuss how TCI can help you solve your telecom challenges.

You may see Jeff training this spring getting ready for his second Seattle to Portland bike ride. This year he plans on doing it in one day!

meet your board

Andy Schwenk

My parents purchased a house in Skyline in 1970 where my mother still lives and I grew up riding horses all over Skyline and playing in houses being constructed.

My first job was pumping gas at the fuel dock at the marina and spreading waste oil on the dirt parking lot to keep the dust down. I have had a keen interest in boats ever since and have owned Northwest Rigging here in Anacortes the last eight years. Bill Vaux and Mac Madenwald were instrumental in introducing me to sailboat racing that has been a lifelong passion including 20 races to Hawaii and many regattas in sunny California.

After graduating from AHS I earned a BA at WWU and then spent 3 years in the US Army Ranger unit based in Fort Lewis. Upon discharge I returned to school at Antioch University and spent 10 years teaching middle school.

My wife Stephanie and two teenage boys love Anacortes and we participate in fun runs, bike rides. This year he plans on doing it in one day!
Spring Wine Festival

This year’s 5th Annual Spring Wine Festival promises to be the best yet! 30 regional wineries from large estate to small boutique vineyards and six local restaurants (this year welcomes 5th Street Bistro, 13moons, Dad’s Diner, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican Cuisine, Gere-A-Deli, and Le Crema Cakes) as they all convene on the pier overlooking the beautiful Guemes channel to celebrate our region’s best offerings!

Prior to the festival enjoy an evening out at one of our local restaurants that are currently featuring wines from the festival! A Town Bistro, 13moons, 5th Street Bistro, Rockfish Grill, H2O, Adrift, and The Store Grocery.

Be sure to make your reservation today for a fabulous and memorable winemaker dinner: Adrift with Chinook Wines, A Town Bistro with Masquerade Wine Company, and the Nantucket is hosting Anchor Catering with Michael Florentino Wines. For further details check our website (anacortes.org.)

Buy your tickets today and we’ll see you on the pier April 13!

A special Thank You to the 2013 Sponsors of the Spring Wine Festival!

Magnum
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company

Carafe
Anacortes American
Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Shell Puget Sound Refinery

Bottle
Cornerstone Home Lending
Fidalgo Bay Resort
Peoples Bank

Table
Golden Services, LLC
Home Place Special Care Center
Majestic Inn & Spa
The Marina Inn
RIS Insurance
Tri County Recycling

Cork
Anaco Bay Inn
Soroptimist International of Anacortes
Whidbey Island Bank
Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store
What’s your sign?

Signs are often thought of as expensive, too much work and of questionable value—what can signs do for your business?

- Attract customers
- Be remembered
- Increase sales

Merchants first learned of the value of outdoor signage in ancient Greece and outdoor signage has been a stalwart of successful businesses since that time. When customers need a product or service, they look it up on line and they find you by your sign. When they find you, they are much more likely to buy.

When customers find your sign especially memorable these customers are much more likely to return. Good outdoor signs clearly identify the business, the value proposition and feature a memorable statement, also called a tagline.

Window signage gives businesses the opportunity to refine, expand on and give urgency to the message conveyed on the outdoor sign.

You need look no further than your local grocery or department store to see the benefits of in-store and display signage. Here is one way to measure the value of in-store and display signage—imagine what the labor costs must be to print and hang those shelf labels on every shelf in a major grocery store. Imagine the labor cost of putting placards on each display rack in a clothing store. Yet, these owners bear this cost happily because the investment really pays off.

Would you like to know more? Call Kevin, your free and confidential business adviser at (360) 336-6114 to review your approach to business security. Interested in starting a new business or gaining market share by exporting? Call James at (360) 336-6114 to get started!
A new ambassador, Jessica Cantrell, comes to us from Bellingham, Washington. She and her daughter moved into Anacortes at the beginning of the new year. Jessica was working with the Farmers Insurance District office in Bellingham and was recruited to be the agent for the Tammy Cotton Farmers Insurance office in Anacortes on 8th street. Jessica is excited to be part of the Anacortes community!

Jessica’s daughter, Isabella is almost four years old and attends the Whitney YMCA and is excited about joining a soccer team soon! Jessica and Isabella especially enjoy the outdoors. They are looking forward to building a boat with friends to race in the Milk Carton Derby on June 2nd! She and other volunteers within the chamber have constructed boxes disguised as cows placed around the community for milk carton collection.

Jessica has also recently been volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club of Anacortes as a mentor. She will help mentor and guide children of all ages with homework during the club’s “Power Hour.”

A fun fact to know about Jessica is her love for challenging herself athletically. She is gearing up to run a Spartan Race in August on her birthday and her daughter; Isabella will run the junior half mile race…in MUD!

Volunteering has always been important to Jessica. She has been volunteering as an ambassador with the chamber of commerce since October 2012. She is becoming involved with the Spring Wine Festival and the Waterfront Festival. Jessica and Isabella are looking forward to building a boat with friends to race in the Milk Carton Derby on June 2nd! She and other volunteers within the chamber have constructed boxes disguised as cows placed around the community for milk carton collection.

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Thank you to the Anacortes Little League for sponsoring and Westside Pizza for catering last month’s luncheon and to the following businesses for contributing gifts:

- Anacortes Little League
- Bayside Specialties
- EDASC
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Frida’s Gourmet Mexican Cuisine
- Homeplace Special Care Center
- Judd & Black
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Skagit Publishing
- The Apothecary Spa
- Whidbey Island Bank
- Business After Hours

A huge thank you to Trident Seafoods for opening their doors and putting on an amazing event for the Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling! Thank you to Gere-A-Deli and Rockfish Grill/H2O for co-sponsoring the event and creating great memories of food (all made from Trident products by Gere-A-Deli) and drink (Anacortes Brewery) what an evening! Thank you to all the following businesses that gave gifts for the give-away:

- All About Honeymoons & Vacations
- Anacortes Housing Authority
- Anacortes Properties, LLC
- Bank of the Pacific
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- Kathy’s Upscale Resale Boutique
- Le Crema Cakes
- Marketing With Mary
- Nantucket Inn
- Opulence Salon & Day Spa
- Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Read Me A Story
- Sparkitecture
- Swinomish Casino & Lodge
- Tara Nurturing Massage Therapy
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store

2013 Ambassadors

- Jessica Cantrell—Farmers Insurance
- Carla Cummins—All About Honeymoons & Vacations
- Lara Dunning—FIWG
- Jim Gordon—Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
- Jack Hamilton—Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
- Lisa Helm-Morrow—KeyBank
- Lanaya Holm—Opulence Salon & Day Spa
- Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
- Kari Kennedy—KeyBank
- Matt McKay—Nantucket Inn; Anchor Catering
- Tara Milas—Tara Nurturing Massage Therapy
- Jeffery Pleet,CLU,ChFC—Edward Jones
- Therese Rudzis—Individual member
- Michelle Schremeta—Aulday Bookkeeping Solutions
- Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
- Mary Staley—Marketing with Mary
- Mark VanOort—Golden Services, LLC
- Boyd Veer—Seaside Autobody & Accessories
- John Williams—Skagit Publishing

Sandra Tucker was the February winner of Thank You Thursdays! She entered the giveaway by spending more than $25 at Epicure! Sandra has won $190 in Shop Anacortes Dollars, which are used like cash in participating businesses! Shop at Thank You Thursdays participating businesses weekly to be entered for the monthly drawing!

Opening Day of International Ferry to Sidney

March 24, 2013
Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Kathy Larson  Puget Sound Energy

PRESIDENT ELECT
Mark Lawrence  Simply Yards Landscape and Design

TREASURER
Karin Baldwin  Quantum Construction

PAST PRESIDENT
Kristi Gabrielse  Ana-Cross Stitch

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Matt Miller  Read Me A Story

Board of Directors

Jody Ayón  Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Bela Berghuys  Islands Inn
Dan Cameron  Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Duane Clark  Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Pam Estvold  Anacortes School District
Peggy Flynn  pflynn+associates
Brian Geer  KeyBank
Jim Gordon  Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
Bob Hyde  Port of Anacortes
Gary Jacobson  Attorney
Dean Maxwell  City of Anacortes
Curt Oppel  John L. Scott Real Estate
Andy Schwenk  Northwest Rigging
Mary E. Staley  Marketing With Mary
Bernadette Stanek  Island Hospital
Chris Terrell  How It Works

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton  Executive Director
Mary Talosi  Visitor Information & Operations Director
Cecilie Miller  Event & Communications Coordinator
Leah Hines  Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

Thank you, volunteers!  Volunteer Hours: 245

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Vineyard Variety Show

SUNDAY
April 14th 12-4:30pm
30 Wineries • 6 Restaurants • Live Music

ANACORTES WINE & SPRING FESTIVAL 2013

360.293.7911 • Anacortes.org
Advance Tickets $40  at the door $45

Coast in. Hang out.