State of the College

Please join us on April 9, 2015 as we welcome Skagit Valley College President Dr. Thomas Keegan for a “State of the College” address. Since its founding in 1926, Skagit Valley College has developed strong community connections throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties. By partnering with many of the key community leaders in education, government, business, and economic development the college is exploring employment trends, implementing emerging technologies, and creating innovative academic pathways that enhance student success.

From aircraft to boats to wind turbines, Washington’s rapidly growing manufacturing, composites, maritime, and aerospace industries are creating new jobs that require skilled technicians. To meet that local need, SVC provides high demand training at the Marine Technology Center in Anacortes and the Mount Vernon Campus. Students are receiving comprehensive training that meets these rigorous skills standards and provides them with the opportunity to earn stackable, integrated credentials within various professional interest areas. To learn more visit, [www.skagit.edu/marine](http://www.skagit.edu/marine), [www.skagit.edu/manufacturing](http://www.skagit.edu/manufacturing), and [www.compositeswa.org](http://www.compositeswa.org).

The luncheon is sponsored by Skagit Valley College, who on behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, thank you for joining their commitment to students and the community. Their success reflects their dedication to student achievement and their relationship with the community.

The lunch will take place at the Anacortes Lutheran Church on 22nd Street and O Avenue from 11:30am to 1pm and will be catered by Gere-a-Deli. The lunch will be $15 in advance, or $18 at the door. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the giveaway!

Skagit Cycle Center

Skagit Cycle Center is excited to host the next Business After Hours event on April 23rd from 5:30–7:00 at H2O, 314 Commercial Ave. There is a bike for everyone and Skagit Cycle is proud to offer many options under one roof! Whether you want to spend the day cruising near the water on the Tommy Thompson Trail, pedal up the hills and turns to the top of Mt. Erie, or take the bike out on the trails in the Anacortes Community forest lands, Skagit Cycle Center has a bike to suit your needs. They will be having a bicycle fashion show where they will display a variety of bicycles and apparel that is available. Skagit Cycle Center is a bicycle retail store that offers sales, repairs, and rentals. Come and enjoy appetizers provided by H2O during the event. A no-host bar will be available along with Happy Hour specials. Meet and greet with fellow business owners of Anacortes. Skagit Cycle Center is committed to the community of Anacortes at 1620 Commercial Ave. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the giveaway!
my office window overlooks mt. baker and padilla bay. if i squint, i’m sure i can see the alluring yellow fields of daffodils and i can imagine smelling the berry fields of my youth as skagit valley magically transforms this time of year. what does that mean to those of us living on beautiful fidalgo island? it means april is our kickoff to a season bursting with opportunities to volunteer and to enjoy as island life blossoms, and anacortes boasts some of the finest spring activities to attend in the area.

the chamber spring wine festival is just around the corner and you won’t want to miss this! last year, i volunteered to help out and was put in charge of greeting, signing people up for the raffle drawing and answering questions as people entered the building. the event was festive, with a cheerful group of attendees and my mood soared as i soon found myself laughing and joining in the fun. there was a diverse group of people attending, including locals and many out of town visitors. some were serious about their tastings, taking notes, purchasing wines and voting for their favorites. some went straight for the food, sampling a variety of tantalizing food from local restaurants. still others were content to listen to music, mingle and visit with each other on the pier overlooking the guemes channel, and all were having a great time tasting the finest wines in the pacific northwest. i was impressed in talking to the wine merchants, watching their expressions of passion and an obvious love for what they do. this year we have 32 wineries signed up and 6 restaurants represented, all situated in the beautiful historic port warehouse on saturday, april 11th from 12:00—4:30 pm. anacortes knows how to have fun! last year, as i volunteered at the wine fest, i was approached by a gentleman asking if this was the entrance to the boat festival, which brings us to the next anacortes event. on april 10:00—12:00 at cap sante marina, 1019 q ave., is the anacortes annual spring boat show from 10:00—5:00. enjoy free admission, get ready for boating season and catch the spirit of boating the san juans as you have a chance to wander the docks and view at least 75 floating new and pre-owned boats ranging up to 65 feet. and more events? beautiful quilts will be the focus for the raffle drawing and answering questions as people entered the building. the event was festive, with a cheerful group of attendees and my mood soared as i soon found myself laughing and joining in the fun. there was a diverse group of people attending, including locals and many out of town visitors. some were serious about their tastings, taking notes, purchasing wines and voting for their favorites. some went straight for the food, sampling a variety of tantalizing food from local restaurants. still others were content to listen to music, mingle and visit with each other on the pier overlooking the guemes channel, and all were having a great time tasting the finest wines in the pacific northwest. i was impressed in talking to the wine merchants, watching their expressions of passion and an obvious love for what they do. this year we have 32 wineries signed up and 6 restaurants represented, all situated in the beautiful historic port warehouse on saturday, april 11th from 12:00—4:30 pm. anacortes knows how to have fun! last year, as i volunteered at the wine fest, i was approached by a gentleman asking if this was the entrance to the boat festival, which brings us to the next anacortes event. on april 10:00—12:00 at cap sante marina, 1019 q ave., is the anacortes annual spring boat show from 10:00—5:00. enjoy free admission, get ready for boating season and catch the spirit of boating the san juans as you have a chance to wander the docks and view at least 75 floating new and pre-owned boats ranging up to 65 feet. and more events? beautiful quilts will be the focus as the downtown businesses host the anacortes quilt walk april 1—30. don’t forget the first friday gallery walk on april 3 from 6:00—9:00pm; enjoy “the spitfire grill” at anacortes community theatre april 1—25th; get inspired to music with “jazz at the library” on april 12th from 2:00—3:30; art of gardening april 25—26 at the depot; and the greatly anticipated island chicks antique and vintage show at the port of anacortes on april 25 from 9:00—4:30. there is so much to do, but it’s not complicated. just check out the chambers website, www.anacortes.org and click on anacortes events and happenings. the anacortes chamber is always looking for better ways to assist you, so i invite you to contact me with any ideas that you have at karinb@quantumci.com. see you at the wine fest!

karin baldwin
quantum construction

visiting travel writers

there will be an assortment of travel writers visiting fidalgo island this year, on april 2nd and 3rd, and then also on april 30th and may 1st. we are excited to host them and provide excursions, meals, and experiences unique to each of their writing specialties—and all of them will be enjoying our downtown’s first friday artwalk!

these writers have been featured in a wide range of magazines, newspapers, and online publications—including sip northwest, 425 magazine, the seattle times, and northwest travel magazine. many of them have their own websites, complete with blogs and a strong social media presence.

we’re thrilled to be able to share the unique character of anacortes with these travel writers, and while there is no guarantee, a typical freelance writer can get up to 10 articles published about each destination that they visit.
member profile

Potluck Kitchen Studio

Jackie Davison, cooking instructor and owner of Potluck Kitchen Studio, was born, raised and educated in Seattle. She earned her AA in Business Administration from Edmonds Community College and her BA in Economics from the University of Washington. This led to an extensive career in marketing, including advertising, research and product development. She worked in and around Seattle and eventually in Whatcom County. This is where she met her husband, Mark Lawrence, in 2008, right when he became the new owner of Simply Yards. In 2009 she was corporate-downsized as a result of the recession, so they decided to permanently relocate to Anacortes. She had a long-time interest in cooking and travel so eagerly took the opportunity to go to culinary school at Skagit Valley College.

She attained her AA in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management in 2011. This “classical training” prepared her for a job in the food industry. After briefly working in a few commercial kitchens, she discovered that she enjoyed the fast pace of restaurant work but didn’t feel it made the most of her education. She wanted to share the “tricks of the trade” with home cooks. She felt that the best way she could contribute to the community was to teach cooking classes. So in February 2013, she opened PKS. Besides offering a variety of hands-on and demonstration-style cooking classes, PKS also brings in guest chefs, authors, artisan producers and others.

Her passion is to inspire folks to cook more from scratch, better nourishing themselves. She says “It’s simply more satisfying on many levels.” Her goal is to become the Alton Brown of Anacortes, so in her spare time she studies other chefs, ethnic cuisines, food science/history, nutrition, evolutionary biology and more.

Fun fact: she coined the term “professional recreationalist” because she has never joined a gym but is an avid hiker, cyclist, skier, kayaker, swimmer and yogini.

Jackie loves Anacortes and can’t imagine living anywhere else. It feels only natural to live with saltwater at her doorstep and tall mountains in her backyard.

Learn more about her and her company at www.potluckkitchenstudio.com.

meet your board

Nancy Dalton

Nancy Dalton is the co-owner of the Gateway Bed & Breakfast, located in the Cap Sante neighborhood of Anacortes. She and her husband, Mike, opened the Gateway Bed & Breakfast in early 2013. It was the beginning of their “next chapter.”

Nancy and Mike relocated from the Kirkland area, where Nancy was a long-time employee of Microsoft (Sales and Marketing) and Mike was in the construction business. With children grown (or almost), Nancy has three daughters, Mike has a son and daughter, it was time to change up their lifestyle, so they got this crazy idea to buy and open a bed & breakfast! The focus for their landing spot to do this was on the “Olympic rain shadow” area, as they love the Pacific Northwest, especially the water. Anacortes was not on their list, so the saying goes “Anacortes found them!”

What they found in Anacortes on Fidalgo Island is a hidden gem according to Nancy. That gem is a beautiful little town, with friendly people, on a wonderful island that is accessible by bridge. The best part of this, according to Nancy, is that they get to share this little piece of paradise with all of their guests who stay with them at the Gateway. In fact, four sets of guests have now decided to make Anacortes their new home!

Nancy has been involved with the chamber of commerce since day one, starting with the Accommodations committee, which she now chairs. She is also active on the Marketing and Promotions Division as well a new board member beginning the fall of 2014. Her focus of interest with the chamber is driving awareness of Fidalgo Island and Anacortes, for both visitors and businesses. She is super excited to be a part of the Destination Anacortes effort that the chamber is driving this year.

When not taking care of guests, Nancy enjoys yoga, boating, traveling, and hanging out with the many friends she has met here in Anacortes.
Apply Online Today!
Applying for a home loan is now easier & more convenient.
RealEstate.BankofthePacific.com

Spring Wine Festival

The Seventh Annual Spring Wine Festival is days away and we have a weekend full of activities to enjoy in Anacortes. There are five winemaker’s dinners planned for Friday, April 10th and one winemaker’s brunch on Sunday, April 12th. Guests will enjoy multi-coursed meals while sampling a selection of wines and talking with the winemaker. Reservations are filling up quickly. You can visit anacortes.org/spring to see full menus, wine pairings, and purchase your tickets for the festival and the dinners.

The festival will take place at the historic Port Warehouse Event Center at 100 Commercial Avenue on Saturday, April 11th from noon to 4:30pm. With 32 wineries, six restaurants, artisan cheese and chocolate tastings, and a fine art show, we recommend getting to the festival early! There will be a 10% discount on all wine sales during the festival so that you can take your favorite wines home to enjoy.

Saturday night after the festival, enjoy live music at multiple downtown venues from 5pm-midnight. With the staggered start times you can stop by each venue and listen to flamenco, alternative folk, jazz vocals and instrumentals, and dance music as you explore the tasty drink and dinner menus of our downtown restaurants. You can see a full list of performers and locations on the Spring Wine Festival webpage.

We want to give a special thanks to our generous sponsors. The financial support of these local businesses allow us to host events like the Spring Wine Festival and bring over 1,000 visitors to Anacortes for the weekend to discover or rediscover our charming town. Thanks to Tesoro Refinery, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Swinomish Casino and Lodge, Anacortes American, Heritage Bank, Barrett Financial, Managing Broker College Craig with Windermere Real Estate, Peoples Bank, Trident Seafood, Island Rentals, Tri-County Recycling and Scott Milo Gallery.

At this year’s festival you can sample delectable bites from the following local restaurant partners:
Waterfront Festival Gala Poster Unveiling at Trident Seafoods

The 26th Annual Waterfront Festival poster will be unveiled on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at Trident Seafoods, 1400 4th Street, 5:30–7:00PM. Trident generously opens their doors to the chamber every year, clearing their dry goods storage area to make room for one of the most festive evenings of the year! Trident provides Gere-a-Deli with some of their delectable products from the sea and the spread becomes simply amazing. Hosted bar presented by Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery/ H2O serving their hand-crafted beers and Washington wines. This is our official event that honors all sponsors who underwrite the two day Waterfront Festival and gives all a special preview of this year’s poster. Trident Seafoods is a vertically integrated harvester, processor and marketer of seafood from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Founded in 1973, they are a privately held, American owned corporation operating offshore processors and shore-side plants throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. They are proud to offer you their finest seafood products, “From the Source to the Plate.” Please RSVP online.

Fidalgo DanceWorks Gala

Community builder Nels Strandberg, Island Hospital director Vince Oliver, Mayor Laurie Gere, Police Chief Bonnie Bowers and Anacortes School Superintendent Mark Wenzel volunteered to be “celebrity” dancers at the Fidalgo Dance Works Gala. The evening brought in over $22,000—allowing the non-profit dance studio to offer double the scholarships they have in the past.

Annual Spring Boat Show

April 10 – 12, 2014 • 10am-5pm • 1019 Q Avenue
Kimberli Gregory

Kimberli Gregory is a diligent and committed property manager for Soria Real Estate. Her compassion, professionalism and 23 years of Real Estate & Property Management are seen in the results of her repeated clients and customers in the Skagit area. In addition, her ability to communicate effectively, market knowledge and years of experience provide her with the tools to handle obstacles and ensure clients feel at ease. Kimberli has shown a dedicated attitude and passion for helping others throughout her life. She gives back to the community by being an ambassador for Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, secretary on the board of directors for the Northwest Chapter for PHMA (Professional Housing Management Association) and volunteers her time in many community events.

When not working, she can be found spending time with family and friends, going to festivals in the surrounding areas, and playing with her sweet dog, HoneyBear.
Eagle’s Nest

Community gathering to celebrate the installation of "Aerie"—the 18-foot, 5,000-pound sculpture designed to look like an eagle’s nest by artist Merrilee Moore (shown at left) in the roundabout where Highway 20 meets Commercial Avenue. The sculpture cost around $35,000—paid for by a variety of sources, including the city, the Anacortes Arts Commission, the Anacortes Arts Festival and private donors.

2015 Ambassadors

Taylor Bannister—Boys & Girls Club
Cameron Bigge—Fidalgo Chiropractic
April Breckenridge—Natural Way Chiropractic
Kimberli Gregory—Soria Real Estate
Jack Hamilton—Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Linda Harvey—Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Dan Maul—Classic Style & Co.
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Kymbr Self—Soria Real Estate
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Co.
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary
John Williams—Skagit Publishing

SchmoozeFair

WANT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK AND DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH 1200 OF SKAGIT COUNTY’S BEST PROSPECTS? THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF SKAGIT COUNTY PRESENTS

SchmoozeFair

Thursday, April 16th - 4:00pm – 7:30pm
At Van Zyverden’s Bulb Warehouse
12035 Higgins Airport Way, Burlington, WA

To reserve tickets please call (360) 336-6114 or go online to Skagit.org

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors:

The March Ana-Courtesy Award winner is Karl Davis, McDonalds

“I would like to nominate Karl Davis from the Anacortes McDonalds for the ‘above and beyond’ service he gave me a few weeks ago. I was at the drive through window waiting for my oatmeal and orange juice. He greeted me with a very friendly smile and conversation. I was trying to empty out the cup holders in my car to make run my order—normally this ‘garbage’ would be put on the floor of the passenger seat to be dealt with later, but Karl saw what I was doing, and immediately offered to take the garbage for me. This may seem like such a small gesture, but he truly went above and beyond to help me out, and this small act of kindness has a positive effect on me still. ‘It's the little things that mean a lot.’”

— Carol Van Iterson, Bank of the Pacific

The Ana-Courtesy Award is given to a business or community member that has been nominated by a chamber member to have shown customer service or a kind act that went above and beyond the norm. Do you have someone to nominate? Please send your suggestion to info@anacortes.org
### chamber officers

**Executive Board**

**PRESIDENT**
- Karin Baldwin, Quantum Construction

**PRESIDENT ELECT**
- Chris Long, Jolly Mon Charters

**TREASURER**
- Carol Van Iterson, Bank of the Pacific

**PAST PRESIDENT**
- Mark Lawrence, Simply Yards Landscape and Design

**BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE**
- Jim Gordon, Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.

**Board of Directors**
- Barbara Atterberry, Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Jody Carlisle, Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Nick Chahley, Walgreens
- Colleen Craig, Windermere Real Estate
- Nancy Dalton, Gateway Bed & Breakfast
- Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes
- Matt Gill, Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
- John Hachey, Port of Anacortes
- Gary Jacobson, Attorney
- Brian Johnson, Anacortes Construction Services
- Duane Knapp, Pearl Buttons
- Dennis Richards, Island Hospital
- Andy Schwenk, Northwest Rigging
- Chris Terrell, How It Works
- Mark Wenzel, Anacortes School District

**Chamber Staff**
- Stephanie Hamilton, Executive Director
- Sandy Swartos, Visitor Information & Operations Coordinator
- Laura Hartner, Events & Communications Coordinator
- Amanda Hubik, Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
- Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson, Licensing Sub-Agents

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### vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers! Visit us on the web at [www.anacortes.org](http://www.anacortes.org)

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**ANACORTES**

**Spring Wine Festival**

Saturday, April 11th
12pm - 4:30pm

32 Wineries • 6 Restaurants
Winemaker Dinners & More!

360.293.7911
[anacortes.org/spring](http://anacortes.org/spring)

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**ANACORTES BOAT SHOW**

Coast in. Hang out.

April 10 - 12, 2015 • 10am-5pm
[anacortesboatshow.com](http://anacortesboatshow.com)

1019 Q Avenue - Anacortes, WA

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**ANACORTES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

819 Commercial Ave., Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221