50th Annual Anacortes Arts Festival

The Anacortes Arts Festival celebrates its 50th ANNIVERSARY August 5–7, 2011. The Festival includes 250 booth artisans, two stages of free music, fine art at the Port, demonstrating artist area, regional and ethnic foods, and active youth area. Hours are Friday and Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday 10 to 5 (plus evening Main Stage hours). Visit the festival website www.AnacortesArtsFestival.com for complete information.

Music on two stages includes R&B, bluegrass, folk, world beat and rock as well as dance and performance. Musicians include Prozac Mountain Boys, Little Bill and the Blue Notes, Mark Dufresne Bank, Bump Kitchen and others. The Main Stage and Beer Garden are open until 7:30 Friday and Saturday evenings.

Arts at the Port Exhibitions showcases the Festival’s Permanent Collection started in the 1960’s. Then/Now includes the original collection piece and more current work by 23 premier artists. The John L. Scott Focus Gallery features the work of three artists representing the future of contemporary art. ACYA curated youth art rounds out Arts at the Port.

Artists in any medium are invited to participate in the Guerrilla/Gorilla Area on Saturday and Sunday from 3rd Street to the Port. It’s informal, participatory—and promises to be lots of fun. This is also the location of the demonstrating artist area featuring steamroller block printing, chainsaw art, traditional forged metalwork, basketry, stone carving, painting, weaving, pottery and more.

As one of the oldest and largest arts events in the Northwest, the Anacortes Arts Festival welcomes an estimated 90,000 visitors each year. It’s a great weekend to showcase Anacortes while we collectively celebrate the creative spirit.
As I write this column, the rumor is that Western Washington has only experienced 72 hours of summer—I think part of that time occurred during our annual 4th of July celebrations. It was a beautiful day, a patriotic parade and it was estimated that over 20,000 people attended. The parade kicked off with a fly over by a EA-18G Growler followed by a P-3 Orion from NAS Whidbey—bringing cheers and tears from the crowd.

We learned last month that after 19 years the Anacortes Women of Today will not be able to produce next year’s Independence Day activities. We are hopeful that another service club will take over this beloved community event and the patriotic service in Causland Park, which brings the community and our visitors together in celebration.

August marks the peak of our tourism season, which begins in earnest in June. Walk-in guests to the Visitor Information Center increase from the beginning of the year to June by 450%. Our 40 wonderful volunteers work 250 hours a month during this high traffic season—helping visitors get the most of their experience in our community. Our marketing and promotions efforts continue during this season—highlighting all of the happenings which occur—from the great events the Port of Anacortes sponsors to the wonderful tour opportunities right from our front door. We recently distributed our third edition of the e-news publication—Coast in Hang out in Beautiful Anacortes, which is sent to destination influencers throughout the region—travel writers, concierges, and visitor/convention bureaus.

This weekend marks the 50th annual Anacortes Arts Festival (see front page story), we are so excited for them and so thrilled with their continued impact on our community. Not only does the festival fill our community for three days (and more, as some stay to enjoy the other attractions on our island), they are the largest financial supporter of the arts in the community through the annual giving program. In the past 20 years, the Anacortes Arts Festival has given more than $500,000 in grants and scholarships alone.

Next weekend (August 10–13) is the Skagit County Fair—a must do for families. And the week after that, the Metal Boat Society’s annual festival will be held here for the first time (see story on page 4). The Port of Anacortes’ Third Annual Workboat Races are Saturday, August 27 and the planning committee has been busy adding more great activities to this event (see story on page 5).

The Oyster Run is set for September 25—our island will be rumbling, our hotels and restaurants full—many of our businesses mark this as one of their busiest days.

Rich Riddell, reigning North American Town Crier champion, has invited town criers from throughout North America to compete here in Anacortes. Mark your calendars for September 30—October 2, to experience this remarkable event. We will have more in next month’s newsletter.

Finally, it is time to purchase your tickets for the 2nd Annual Anacortes Oktoberfest—Bier on the Pier. We are promoting this shoulder season event throughout the region in the hopes that festival goers will stay the weekend and enjoy all we have to offer (see story on page 3).

This year my family has decided to staycation for our break, we are going to take time to take pleasure in the natural beauty of our island, perhaps take a tour or two, and relax where hundreds of thousands of visitors make their destination each year. I hope you also get a chance to be a visitor to our island!

Here’s to a successful season for your business!

We’re having a cool summer!
Since 2006 Helen and Larry travelled back and forth to Anacortes to visit their sailboat moored here. During this time they “discovered” the wonderful Pacific Northwest lifestyle, and with their long-time love of boats they were inspired to move. In 2010 they relocated their successful real estate company to Anacortes, from Phoenix, AZ.

Larry and Helen bring 50 years of combined real estate experience. For 18 years, they owned/operated their mid-size real estate company called Urban Living Properties. During that time they successfully represented buyers, sellers and developers in both UP and DOWN markets. Anacortes Properties is a boutique-style company designed to cater to the diverse markets in Anacortes, La Conner, Guemes and Whidbey Islands.

Real estate itself is a commodity that brings people together. Larry and Helen’s proven business philosophy is based on a simple thought, “we’re not really in the real estate business, we’re in the “people” business.” Why is this significant? It underscores their consultative approach with every client. Everything begins with your unique set of circumstances. They:
- listen very carefully to your needs and goals and place themselves in your shoes;
- discuss with you where you are now and importantly, where you want to be and when;
- plan a strategy with your goals in mind;
- and only then do they set in motion your real estate process.

That process can be complicated, daunting, and tiring OR it can be hassle free. Hassle free is what they offer clients and customers via their knowledge and experience. They keep you up to date on the market, financing, and the myriad of details included in the process by keeping you informed all along the way.

The Priers have enjoyed cruising Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, Gulf Islands the coast of British Columbia. In the past their sailing adventures have included cruising the Great Barrier Reef in Australia amongst the beautiful Whitsunday Islands.

“Personal Service for Personal Circumstances.” Call them today and get the ball rolling.

www.LoveAnacortesLiving.com
info@LoveAnacortesLiving.com
Larry: 360-298-4567
Helen: 360-708-4888

The 2nd Annual Anacortes Oktoberfest is quickly approaching. This is the largest brewer attended festival in the state of Washington. The Oktoberfest committee has extended the event to two days based on last year’s attendance and expects the event to sell out for both days. Two-day tickets are on sale now for a low price of $35, which includes a festival glass and a total of twelve tasting tickets with access to 30 breweries. There will also be an outdoor tent with up to three food vendors and festival style seating. Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets.

The chamber would like to thank the following early sponsors of the event:

**Barrel:**
- Birch Equipment

**Keg:**
- Anacortes Inn
- Complete Plumbing Repair, Inc.
- McAdams, Wright & Ragen
- Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery
- Whidbey Island Bank

**Stein:**
- Edward Jones Investments—Troy Kunz
- GEMS, LLC
The Chamber Is Turning 100!

In 1911, nearly three thousand businesses filed in Olympia for incorporation—out of those three thousand incorporations only forty-five exist today. The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is one of those few still in existence. Not only is that impressive, but so was the trek that our predecessors made to Olympia: back then, the only way was by horseback, as many did not own cars, and the roads outside of Olympia were virtually impassable. They were clearly determined to solidify their commitment to Anacortes and its citizens by taking the long adventurous trip to appear before Secretary of State Ithamar Howell on September 8, 1911, to formally incorporate under the name of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturing.

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to attend the Century Corporation Celebration on Thursday September 8, 2011 from 3–6 pm. Come learn more about the chamber’s history and timeline of accomplishments in our city.

Town Crier Rich Riddell will open the ceremony at 3:19 pm with the sound of the cannon blast provided by Lee Dawes signaling the moment our predecessors signed our papers of incorporation. Secretary of State Sam Reed will be presenting the chamber with a formal certificate in recognition of our one hundred years of continuous incorporation, and Wallie Funk will be on hand to speak about the history of the chamber. The celebration will take place here at the chamber office at 819 Commercial Avenue with an open house and reception following the presentation. Many local restaurants will be providing attendees with delicious “bites” of local cuisine and the Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery will provide a variety of sample “tastes” from their delectable brews on tap for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to celebrating this historical mark with all of our Anacortes community.

24th Annual Metal Boat Festival
August 19-21, 2011
Cap Sante Boat Haven

This is the first year the festival will be held in Anacortes, thanks in part to the Port of Anacortes making the event possible with discounted moorage and accommodations.

Many of this year’s attendees will be coming from quite a distance and will be experiencing Anacortes for the first time. The three day event will focus on building, owning and maintaining a metal boat.

The weekend event will kick off Friday evening with a dinner, catered by a local restaurant and held at the newly restored Seafarer’s Memorial Park building.

To learn more about the coming event and the Metal Boat Society visit www.metalboatsociety.org, or contact Candy LaRue (425) 485.2100 or Curt Eckley (425) 223.6256.

Romanian folk dancers to perform at Arts Festival

The Anacortes Sister Cities Association (ASCA) has invited a group of 12 young, accomplished Romanian folk dancers (plus four adults) from the region around Comarnic, Romania, to travel to Anacortes in August of this year. They are scheduled to perform four times at the Anacortes Arts Festival, and ASCA is organizing a performance at Brodniak Hall on Friday evening, August 5, as well. The name of the group is “Clubul Copiilor—Martha Bibescu” and their director is Angela Nasulea.

In the past, ASCA members have visited Comarnic and have seen these performers in action. ASCA has also provided funds for their costumes. The performers will be in Anacortes for about two weeks, not only to perform, but also to enjoy Anacortes’ culture, food, and shopping. ASCA members will provide home-stays. If you have any questions about this visit, contact Duane Clark (360 293-8088, or dclark@capsantecourt.com).

Brodniak Hall
Anacortes High School
Friday, August 5
7:00 p.m.
and during the Arts Festival

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On Saturday, August 27, the community is invited to enjoy a late summer treat—the Anacortes Work Boat Races.

Guests of the Port of Anacortes-sponsored event will enjoy a full day of activities that begins with a 9 a.m. maritime treasure swap. The afternoon schedule rolls into the evening (1-8 p.m.) with a music concert (also free!) inside the historic Transit Shed Event Center.

Races will be preceded by a Pirate Boat Parade. Land-based activities range from a “Chowder Challenge” (guests taste and vote) to the naming of Pirate King and Queen.

There will be commercial food vendors with menus ranging from pizza to hot dogs and hamburgers and a beer garden inside the Transit Shed. Selection of pirate “royalty” includes the “swagger and stagger” competition. All children who dress in pirate costumes will be recognized and rewarded with a treat.

Special guest possibilities include Guard rescue team and tours on the historic tugboat “Comanche.” Musicians will sing colorful sea shanties, and organizations including Sea Scouts, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Commanche Foundation will host exhibits.

Contact the Port office (293-3134) if you are interested in being a vendor, or participating in the treasure swap. The fee is $25.

Just the facts

- Annual Anacortes Workboat Races
- Pier 1, Port of Anacortes (north end of Commercial Avenue behind the Transit Event Shed)
- Saturday, August 27, 1:00 pm.
- Activities, exhibits, food and music.
- Free concerts start 7:00pm

Coldwell Banker Bain extends reach to Anacortes

Coldwell Banker Bain (CB Bain) a leading provider of real estate brokerage service in Western Washington, continues its coverage of the I-5 corridor and beyond with the acquisition of a new branch office in Anacortes, Washington. Coldwell Banker Island Living, as of September 15, 2011, will become CB Bain’s twenty-sixth office in Washington state.

The Anacortes office is a centerpiece of the community, owned and run by Jean Groesbeck. She and her husband, Paul, fell in love with Anacortes while boating in the San Juan Islands, making the decision to move here from Bellevue, WA, in 1999. Jean brings to her leadership of the Coldwell Banking Island Living team more than 25 years in sales and marketing and an extensive list of credentials of selling real estate in Skagit County. The office has a select team of 18 real estate professionals who serve buyers and sellers throughout Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, Guemes Island and Skagit County.

According to Groesbeck, her decision to merge her office with CB Bain will build upon the success of this excellent Anacortes office. “After becoming a Coldwell Banker franchise in the 1990s, we gained the name recognition of the national brand,” she says. “Now that we’ve made the decision to join CB Bain, we’re gaining high local brand recognition and the support of a strong company that believes in technology and marketing support,” she continues. “Their reputation precedes them wherever they go and that’s the foundation of what gives CB Bain, and all of its branches their competitive edge.”
Chamber summer

John Pope of Tesoro, Mary Staley, chamber member, and Brian Geer of the Islands Red Cross enjoy the summer potluck and garden party at How It Works.

Pies from GEMS, LLC, watermelon courtesy of Kathy Larson Puget Sound Energy, and cupcakes from LeCrema Cakes.

Volunteer Information Center volunteer Lou Bergeson enjoys the VIC appreciation party at chamber staff member Mary Talosi’s home.

John Hackstadt (center) of ABC Yacht Charters hosts June’s Business After Hours.

thanks...

Thank you to the following members for donating door prizes for the June Business After Hours and Chamber Luncheon:

- Airporter Shuttle/Bellair Charters
- Bayside Specialties
- Edward Jones Investments—Gary Thramer
- Joyful Soaps
- Skagit Publishing Company
- Summit Assistance Dogs
- Zumba
- 1340 KWLE the Whale

member renewals

- American Dream Real Estate Services
- Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
- Anacortes Family Center
- Autumn Leaves Bed & Breakfast
- Avenue Catering NW Ltd
- Rich & Gail Ballow, John L. Scott Real Estate
- Bayside Inn, LLC
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Cap Sante Inn
- Comcast
- Diversified Systems
- Express Employment Professionals
- Frontier Building Supply
- Garner’s Northwest, Inc.
- Highland Woods, LLC
- Island Medical Spa
- John L. Scott Real Estate/Anacortes
- Lake Campbell Lodging
- Northwest Rigging
- Piston Service Parts Plus
- San Juan Safaris
- Sebo’s Hardware & Equipment Rentals
- Sound Health Chiropractic, LLC

new members

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION PROGRAM 2
105 17th Avenue Court
Milton, WA 98354
(253) 508-7116
www.cngc.com/conservation
Autumn Marks
autumn.d.marks@mco.com
Utility Conservation Program

RANDY’S PIER 61
209 T Avenue
Anacortes
WA 98221
(360) 293-5108
www.pier61.com
Randy & Jennifer Barrett
randyspier61@comcast.net
Restaurant

SHAY WARD, STYLIST-COLORIST
3218 R Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 299-2227
Shay Ward
Stylist

THE JUICY DOG REVOLUTION
904 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 840-3041
www.thejuicydogrevolution.com
Lacee Root
thejuicydog@gmail.com
Restaurant

ZIP SAN JUAN
372 Caines Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-5947
www.zipsanjuan.com
Patrick Moll-Nevins
info@zipsanjuan.com
Zip Tour
Chamber night at Safeco Field~
Mariners Baseball
Friday, August 26th
7:00 pm

Washington State Ferries have made it possible for Anacortes Chamber of Commerce to purchase reduced cost Mariners tickets for chamber Mariner’s night. We will be occupying reserved, field and terrace club seating at 50% off. Safeco Field will identify groups of 25 or more on the big screen, we’re hoping our group will be large!

Airporter Shuttle/Bellair Charters have joined in to offer the group reduced rates for a charter bus to and from the game contingent on a full bus (48 riders). We will confirm the bus by August 5th.

We have been working with Washington State Ferries to build a strong partnership. Chamber Mariners night is just one of the ways Washington State Ferries have partnered with us.

To RSVP, please contact:
McIntyre Hall at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon
Date: August 11, 2011
Time: 6pm
Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association presents:
Jerry Howard, CEO of NAHB!

Do not miss this opportunity to hear from the CEO of National Association Of Home Builders!

$50 per person if RSVP by August 3rd
$65 per person if RSVP after August 3rd
Select your entrée choice:
New York Steak Bordelaise or Chicken Gorgonzola

Phone: 360-757-6916
Toll Free: 888-497-4222
E-mail: info@sicba.org
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers! Volunteer Hours: 240

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Friday, October 7th, 5-9pm and Saturday, October 8th, 12-6pm

30 Northwest Breweries

Advanced tickets:
$35 two day pass or $20 each day.
At the door
$45 two day pass or $25 each day

Anacortes Oktoberfest

Historic Port Warehouse
1st St. & Commercial Ave.
www.anacortes.org/oktoberfest/

Coastin' Hangout.