The Anacortes Schools Foundation is celebrating their 25th year. Over this time, the Foundation has funded well over $250,000 in student scholarships, staff development, and school infrastructure improvements/beautification.

They will be providing an update on current fundraising efforts and projects at the Sunnyside Up Breakfast on December 10. In addition to the community update, the breakfast is a great opportunity to network your business in an intimate setting. It is designed for those early-risers who can’t make other events (or who naturally shine as the sun is coming up!) The event runs from 7:00-8:30 a.m. at the Majestic Inn & Spa. Cost is $10. Please RSVP to the chamber office (293-7911).

Anacortes School Foundation

Please join us for the business after hours at Opulence Salon & Day Spa at 902 Commercial Avenue on December 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Opulence Salon has expanded to a day spa, now offering massage, facials, and body treatments (including waxing). Additionally, they are an art gallery proud to represent Pacific Northwest artists.

Angie Baker and the rest of the staff of the salon have a fabulous evening planned—including a dessert bar from the Alaska Silk Pie Company. Please RSVP to the chamber.

Planning for 2010

The Chamber’s Board of Directors held its annual retreat on October 28. Facilitated by Duane Knapp (BrandStrategy Inc.), both existing and new board members held a wide-ranging discussion about our chamber’s vision and direction over the coming year. While 2010 goals are still in the formulation stage, a broad outline emerged, with key areas highlighted below:

- **Divisional structure.** Chamber governance over the past year has focused on five key divisions: Economic Development, Finance, Governmental Affairs, Marketing & Promotion, and Membership. The board will review this structure to ensure that these divisions are meeting the needs of members and...
a message from the president

As I write this final column of my presidency, it’s prior to Thanksgiving, one day away from the Chamber Cheers event, and hours away from the After Hours taking place at Read Me A Story and Bellissima. I’ve become entrenched in our chamber and I’m a better person for it.

I’m thankful for the opportunity to have served as your president and the chance to surround myself with dedicated and forward-thinking business people. It’s been a remarkable year.

I’m thankful, moving out of this position, knowing for the next two years we have capable leadership in place to take this organization to new heights. Under the helm of Mike Trafton this coming year and Mark Bunzel the following year, strong commitment to the Anacortes Futures Project could not be in better hands.

I’m thankful for the professional chamber staff who have grown along with this organization and offer support and encouragement to the many volunteers.

Saturday night at the Chamber Cheers event I’ll be presenting the Presidents Award to, not one, but two deserving people. Pam Allen, as a past president, led this chamber through the most trying times in its history. The decisions she was forced to make were not always the most popular but were necessary and the test of time has proven they were wise. Most members would have rested on their laurels at that point but Pam has continued to offer her time and energy in ways that have been critical to the success of many of our goals and continues to give us her best.

Jim Clark, has served on the executive board, been a driving force on marketing and promotions, active in economic development and was called in to consult on the roll-out of the AFP. He constantly challenges the status quo and on important issues is often the voice of reason. I have found him to be an invaluable member on our board.

We are an organization whose purpose it is to enhance our business community. Our strength is in our numbers and our collective willingness to participate, wherever it is we feel we fit in. I encourage you to find that place.

Happy Holidays! May the new year offer promise of better times to come.

—Zee Hogan

Retreat (Continued from page 1)

the board. It is important that we maintain necessary flexibility and an appropriate response to opportunities and threats.

Communication. The retreat stressed the need for continued focus on communication with members and the public. We will continue to seek improvement in both arenas. A potential area of concentration in 2010: an integrated social networking capability, with linkages supporting tourism, chamber membership, and relocations.

Business vision/waterfront development. Put simply, the chamber’s current vision encompasses “a vibrant waterfront community.” It is important that this vision be calibrated with our members. Assuming alignment, we will strive to provide solutions that meet the needs of the city, residents, and land owners, with a goal of increasing waterfront access and optimizing our natural assets.

SR20 signage. We will investigate the potential of billboard signage on SR20, highlighting our city and furthering/incorporating “Coast In. Hang Out.” We will seek to improve highway directional signage for traffic traveling north from Whidbey Island.

Customer service training. We will seek to implement a centralized program that provides effective and efficient customer service training to member employees. To the extent possible, this could be modularized to industry requirements.

Community arts center/conference center. We will explore the potential for a community arts center, encompassing performance and visual arts, dance, and other elements. We will continue to work with local groups to construct a conference center that would draw convention activity and positively impact tourism, mitigating seasonality issues.

Finally, we will continue to drive the initiatives that were begun over the past several years, including the Futures Project, Buy Close By, our many beautification projects, our marketing program, networking opportunities, and governmental lobbying efforts on behalf of our members.

The board welcomes member input on chamber activities—your thoughts and questions. Feel free to contact any board member or the chamber office.
If you haven’t heard yet, there is a new mental health therapist in town! Jonathan Vander Schuur has opened his new private practice here in Anacortes. Jonathan is a 2-year resident of Anacortes and has opened his practice after serving the public health system for the past 14 years. He is an active part of the community and wants to use his expertise to help others within the community.

Jonathan is married and has two young kids. He and his wife moved here to Anacortes to be close to his wife’s extended family. He grew up in Michigan and loves the weather we have in Anacortes.

Jonathan is a Marriage and Family Therapist. His educational background started with a bachelor’s degree from Olivet Nazarene University, Illinois, in psychology. He then graduated with his master’s in marriage and family therapy from Fuller Theological Seminary, California.

Jonathan’s experience has given him an expertise working with children and youth and their families. He also has experience counseling with couples. He is offering a free drug and alcohol prevention group to the youth in Anacortes. He is also working on his certification to become a domestic violence perpetrator treatment counselor. He hopes to work with the court system and offer certified treatment by the end of December 2009.

Jonathan is experienced with the Christian worldview. For those that share this worldview, Jonathan can provide a perspective within the counseling experience. Jonathan grew up as “pastor’s kid” in a Christian home. He attended Christian based educational institutions for his high school, college, and graduate degrees. Life experience, educational background, and current focus and personal beliefs have given Jonathan a strong foundation with Christian principles.

Jonathan wants to use the therapeutic relationship to help heal past wounds, find solutions to current problems, and to build a lasting foundation to maintain the healing and solutions found in therapy.” Together, we can find hope, get encouragement, be empowered.”

Windows 7.0

Windows 7 is here. It came with high expectations and even some parties. Overall it is a worthy successor to Windows XP, which Windows Vista could never claim.

Most experts believe that it is an impressive improvement over Vista. We have tested it in our office and have been impressed. We installed it on a slow machine that was susceptible to freezing and painful to use. Windows 7 miraculously re-energized the machine.

Windows 7 is designed to support the newest advances in hardware and memory utilization. If you work with photos or videos, you will appreciate these refinements.

Vista owners will also enjoy the speedy upgrade. The upgrade from XP is a bit more intense, but either way, you will be delighted at how seldom you are asked for input. Even more exciting is how many of our peripherals (cameras, printers, etc.) are recognized automatically.

Then there’s the cleaner interface. The taskbar has been redesigned to cut clutter and Vista’s gadgets sidebar has been improved. Even the most annoying aspects of the User Account Control (known for asking too many questions and permission to proceed) have been eliminated.

There are also new tools. One is called Snap. It aligns windows at the side of the desktop, allowing you to control expansion. It is especially helpful when comparing documents or copying files between two windows.

 Plenty of other new features exist within Windows 7, but keep in mind there is always a lot of sales hype when any new operating system is introduced.

Time will tell all. And, there is no law against sticking with Vista or XP.
2009 Community Service Excellence Award Winner
Jim McNally

Congratulations to Jim McNally, recipient of the 2009 Community Service Excellence Award!

Jim was honored at the 2009 Chamber Cheers dinner, dance and celebration on November 21 for his contributions and dedication to our community and his unflagging mentorship of our youth.

Jim’s vision for this community is that everyone, young and old and from all sectors of the community, join together, work together, play together and support each other in making the community the best it can be. He accomplishes this by working tirelessly, setting an exemplary positive example and leading our youth in offering service to the community. Through Jim’s and his Wrestlers for Life efforts, every dollar they have raised is donated to organizations in need in our community, such as the Anacortes 100 Food Bank, Anacortes Relay for Life, Meals on Wheels and many others. Community events such as the Spring Wine Festival, the Waterfront Festival, the Anacortes Arts Festival, Jazz Festival, the March for Meals Parade and others have benefited from the diligent efforts of Jim and those he leads.

Jim motivates our youth to become better people and to improve upon themselves so they might be more giving to their communities as adults. He always has a smile and quick joke even in the cold, pounding rain when removing flower baskets or shoveling snow at the Senior Activity Center or in front of our local senior citizens’ homes so they can safely walk their sidewalks or when cutting, splitting and delivering firewood to those who needed heat in their homes.

Because of Jim, Anacortes is a better place and because of his mentorship, will be a better place in the future.

Jim was selected as recipient for the award through a community nomination process. The Community Service Excellence Award is designed to recognize and honor a chamber member who has made extraordinary contributions to our community in 2009. Nominees must meet specific criteria to be eligible for the award. The criteria are 1) individual owner or employee of a business which is a current member of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce; and 2) has demonstrated excellence and outstanding contributions to his/her community, which could include service in charitable or non-profit groups and cultural and volunteer activities that enhance the quality of life in Anacortes.

We are proud to honor Jim as this year’s Community Service Excellence Award recipient.

Downtown Trick or Treat
Thanks to all the business who participated in Halloween downtown trick or treating. Special thanks to Village Pizza for hosting the costume contest and KP studios for taking free portraits of our kids!
School Levy

In 2006, voters approved a four-year Maintenance & Operations levy, which replaced an earlier levy that was due to expire. Next February, voters will again be asked to consider a levy request. M&O levies are used to enhance learning and school operations. These local taxes, funded through property tax payments, pay for learning materials, technology, teacher training, lower classroom sizes, transportation, athletics and the arts, and a variety of other purposes. In the Anacortes school district, local levy dollars comprise approximately 20% of the overall district budget.

An advisory committee convened by the Superintendent has advised that the district bring to the public a request for a four-year replacement levy that is equal to the current total levy amount. This issue will be reviewed by the School Board to determine the final duration and amount. Ballots will be mailed to voters in mid-January.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors is considering support of the levy request. Assuming that it is in line with what has been proposed by the advisory committee, the Board may recommend that Chamber members to support this replacement levy request. The vast majority of levy dollars go toward direct services to students, which has contributed greatly toward the superior performance exhibited by Anacortes schools. In tandem with various state budget cuts which have directly affected public school revenue, a levy failure would be crippling to our school district.

It is important that members take the time to review and understand this replacement levy request. Resources are available on the district Web site (www.asd103.org). Feedback/questions may be directed to the schools Superintendent, Chris Borgen at 293-1210 or via e-mail: cborgen@asd103.org.

Year-End Wrap Up

2009 was filled with many wonderful events, from our Past President’s reception and Saving our Ferry efforts, to many after hours, ribbon cuttings and other networking events. See you for more fun in 2010.
Moving to Anacortes in 1983 involved a career change as well as a job change coming from a short stay in Alaska as a fleet manager for Chevrolet motor division. Boyd purchased the Chevrolet dealership from the Trulson brothers. The property had not changed hands since 1916!

Being the owner was a passion come true, as is Boyd’s love for older cars. In 1996, he sold the dealership franchise to Chuck Olson, but maintained ownership of the property downtown.

Boyd’s next business venture was the opening of a new body shop in his building in the heart of Anacortes. The business took off immediately and has expanded two times to keep up with the volume. Seaside Autobody has been in business 13 years now!

Being a chamber ambassador allows close contact with new members and personal touch with the chamber members, who are the pulse of the community! Boyd’s other interests include Rotary, the local Lutheran Church, North Cascade Street Rodders and restoring old cars.

Anacortes Metro Area Tops Economic “Rebound” List

Business Week magazine ranked the Anacortes-Mount Vernon metro area as tops in the nation in a list of areas most likely to rebound quickly from the recession in the first quarter of next year. The report cited the tourism, retail and hospitality industries, which are forecasted to emerge from the downturn faster, as a few reasons for its ranking. The magazine’s list of 25 metro areas is based on projections of job growth in the first three months of 2010, according to a study conducted by Moody’s Economy.com.

We would like to thank the following members for donating door prizes to the October Business After Hours:

- ACT Theatre
- Anacortes Clean!
- Art Shotwell Web Design
- Cap Sante Inn
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
- Lighthouse Park R.V. Park and Mini Storage
- MLS Bi-Coastal Construction
- Opulence Hair Salon

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Beauty Consultant

BLUSH CUSTOM FLORAL
(360) 972-1840
stacie@blushcustomfloral.com
1708 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
http://www.blushcustomfloral.com
Stacie Sutliff
Florist

WHIDBEY COFFEE
(360) 331-8121
coffee@whidbey.com
1120 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
Coffee/Espresso drive-through
Dan Ollis

FLOUNDER BAY CAFÉ
(360) 293-3680
2201 Skyline Way
Anacortes, WA 98221
Dino Trapalis
Restaurant
Celebration of Trees
December 4 10:00 am–7:00 pm
Free community previews at the Port Warehouse

December 5 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Free community previews at the Port Warehouse

December 5 5:00–7:30 pm
Reception & auction at the Port Warehouse

Chamber Holiday Art Walk
Friday, December 4 6:00–9:00 pm
Saturday December 5 10:00 am–5:00 pm
Businesses in downtown Anacortes

Community Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, December 4 5:45 pm
Chamber of Commerce building, 9th & Commercial

Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 5 11:00 am
Sponsored by the Anacortes Lions Club

Lighted Boat Parade
Saturday, December 19 5:30 pm
Boats leave Cap Sante Boat Haven
at 5:30 pm and travel
Guemes Channel

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819 Commercial Ave., Suite F
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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John Pope Tesoro Refining
Joe Schlundt Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Erik Schorr Anacortes Kayak Tours
Rick Star Rockfish Grill
Peter Whiting Northwest Trawlers

Chamber Staff

Mitch Everton Executive Director
Stephanie Hamilton Program & Events Director
Mary Talosi Visitor Information & Operations Director
Danielle Codara Office Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

Thank you, volunteers!
Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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It’s back again!

January 20
February 17
March 17

Three routes — Try five restaurants All for only $25

Tickets are on sale now and are perfect for the hard-to-buy for friend!

Go to www.anacortes.org to check out all the details.

Coast in. Hang out.

Thank you, volunteers!
Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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