**State of the District**

A nacortes School District is Charting a Course to Excellence by preparing students to thrive in our globally competitive world. Our district is recognized by the Washington School Research Center for being in the top 5% of high performing school districts in Washington State.

Our School Ready programs have resulted in 85-90% of entering Kindergarten and First grade students meeting, or exceeding, grade level standards. Our Transition Ready program has resulted in recognition for AMS as a Washington State School of Distinction for the last three years and as a Reward School from the U.S. Dept. of Education. Our College/Career Ready program has resulted in a high rate of on-time graduate success and in AHS being recognized as School of Distinction and rated by UW as among the top of all state high schools in terms of correlation of student high school success to student academic success at the university. We look forward to sharing with you the progress we are making toward our goals, the details of our new Strategic Plan and updating each of you on the great things happening in our district.

This luncheon is sponsored by **Liberty Tax Services** providing customer service the way it was meant to be, fast, accurate, and guaranteed. Their team of certified tax professionals and crazy costumed marketers make customer service their priority so when you are looking for a tax preparation firm, Liberty is the place to be.

Lunch will be served by **Avenue Catering** for $15. Bring a gift for the give-away! RSVP online and we'll see you at 22nd & 0 on January 10 11:30–1:00 pm.

**business after hours**

**Ship Harbor Inn**

D iscover the Ship Harbor Inn, a hidden treasure located at the top of the hill from the Washington State Ferry terminal, just minutes from Historic Downtown Anacortes.

They offer outstanding accommodations complete with a water view and amenities for both business and leisure travelers.

The Ship Harbor Inn offers a wide variety of rooms to fit your every need. Ranging from deluxe king suites, 2-bedroom apartments, queen room’s with Jacuzzi’s to a rustic kitchen cottage & also available is a brand new exercise facility.

Book your next meeting or retreat. Meeting space can accommodate up to 30 people.

“Say I do to the View” and plan your special wedding ceremony or reception at the Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn. They can accommodate up to 175 people.

All guests at Ship Harbor Inn will enjoy complimentary popcorn, coffee and tea in our guest lobby, complimentary breakfast or breakfast in a bag is provided for that busy corporate traveler. Free WI-FI, business center, iPod docking stations and upon request shuttle service to our historic downtown or ferry terminal.

Please join us on January 17th at 5316 Ferry Terminal Road from 5:30–7:00 PM for the business after hours and feel free to bring a gift for the give-away!
a message from the president

Happy New Year 2013--Your Chamber is Working for YOU

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is pro-business, pro-jobs and has your best interest at stake. There are four chamber divisions that are working for you. They develop marketing plans and promotions to bring people into town to spend dollars shopping, dining and for overnight lodging. They are watchful for new legislative impacts that would negatively impact your business operations. They plan for and help facilitate business expansions, business retention and business recruitment. And they work to make sure that your voice is heard and that your receive value for your chamber membership investment.

A brief survey has been emailed to chamber members monthly during 2012 to gather information to better serve chamber members. Participation in the survey has been growing with the last being 20%, which according to statistics is a fantastic return. Your comments are invaluable. They keep the chamber on track to deliver what is most important to you. The last survey discussed how traditionally members view their chamber membership dues as a return on investment. A new approach is to find out the actual value of their investment. Sixty seven percent of those who replied said their #1 and #2 value on “I” were involvement opportunities and receiving information.

Your chamber won’t let you down. The chamber divisions and staff will keep involvement opportunities coming your way as well as keeping information in your inbox/mailbox and other communication channels.

The chamber is about BUSINESS. Look for the YES team—the concept currently under development by chamber board members to support business initiatives to keep and grow business opportunity for Anacortes. A YES team leader will be the subject matter expert as issues arise and that information will be made available to all members with understandable talking points. Watch for the YES buttons in town and at council/commission meetings. Ask about what they are and what issues you can support—all to benefit business in Anacortes.

—Kathy Larson, PSE

First of the 2013 Beach Watcher Winter Lecture Series

From Satellite to Salish Sea: The National Wildlife Refuge System, A Network for Wildlife

Please join us to discover the hidden treasures of America’s National Wildlife Refuge System including our local refuges in and near the Salish Sea. Our lecture expedition will be led by Mr. Lorenz Sollman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maritime Refuge Complex, Sequim, WA. The lecture will be Friday, Jan. 11, 7 - 8:30pm. Please note our new lecture location: Northwest Educational Service District Building, 1601 R Ave., Anacortes. Lectures are free and open to the public. Sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches.

Winter Wonderland Walk, Washington Park December 14 & 15

ribbon cutting

Impressions Salon celebrated their Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting on December 14.
**member profile**

**Red Door Thrift Shop**

Christ Episcopal Church is a congregation called by God to serve in faith and community. It has offered an Anglican prayer book style of worship in Anacortes since 1890. The 1891 building on 7th and M is the oldest building used continuously for worship in the city of Anacortes. Combined with an emphasis on worship, Christ Church proclaims the good news of Christ by involvement in the community through the engagement of its members in service and financial contributions to community organizations that provide direct assistance to others.

The Red Door Thrift Shop, at the corner of 7th & O Avenue, has been a ministry of Christ Episcopal Church since the early 1970’s. We serve our community by providing quality used goods at a great value and a supportive environment for our customers. The Red Door helps protect our environment through reuse and recycling and provides a meaningful community for volunteers. Proceeds are given to support such programs as Anacortes Family Center, Meals on Wheels, Island Hospital Teen Clinic and Prenatal Care Clinic, Salvation Army Food Bank, Dinner At the Brick, Boys & Girls Club, Skagit Domestic Violence Prevention, Summit Assistance Dogs, Anacortes 100 Food Bank, Gentry House, La Iglesia de la Resurreccion and others.

Our vision of ministry grows from our baptism and from scripture, tradition and reason. In our practice of faith, we strive to connect head, heart and hands to advocate for peace and justice among all people. Christ Episcopal Church is an open and affirming congregation for all. We endeavor to love our neighbors as ourselves and to respect the dignity of every person. We offer a K-12 youth program, Growing in Grace and Godly Play for all ages. There are Men and Women’s discussion groups that explore all topics of interest. Sundays offer Adult Faith Formation presentations.

As part of the Komo Kulshan Cluster of Skagit Valley, Christ Episcopal Church shares ministry with four partner churches: Celebration Lutheran (Anacortes), St. James Episcopal (Sedro Wooley), St. Paul’s Episcopal (Mount Vernon), and La Iglesia de la Resurreccion (Mount Vernon). Please visit our website: [www.christchurchanacortes.org](http://www.christchurchanacortes.org) to learn more and see our worship schedule.

**meet your board**

**Jim Gordon**

Jim moved to Anacortes in 1998 after having lived all over the western US. This was one of the best decisions he have ever made. After helping his parents build their retirement home in 1980, he always felt a pull to get back to the area. Anacortes is one of those towns that offer a diversity of life few other places experience. A city with small town feel and large town aspirations, it’s hard not to find a lot to like on Fidalgo Island.

After working for others in several areas of the telecommunications industry for 32 years, in 2010 Jim started Freedom Wireless Media to offer businesses’ some options to their current phone equipment and services. He enjoys getting to know new clients and working with them to determine what they have, if it’s the best fit and at times recommending a new direction. In today’s market there are tremendous systems available offering a range of features only dreamed of just a few years ago. Almost without fail these systems bring a substantial amount of new functionality to a business while at the same time reducing monthly expenditures.

Being a chamber ambassador for a couple years, a liaison for the Spring Wine Festival, Jim was recently asked to be on the chamber board of directors this year, quite an honor for him. With the board position, he’s involved in the “YES” team (you will hear from them very soon) and the government affairs division working to monitor the regulatory environment for businesses, educate chamber members on issues relating to business and encouraging business friendly candidates to run for public office.

He is also involved in the Burlington and Mount Vernon Chambers, a past president of the Skagit Valley Business Networking International chapter and a 2011 graduate of Leadership Skagit. The love of his life, Sharon and he enjoy time with 4 of their 5 boys, their wives and 6 grandchildren that all live close by. Life’s been good to him so far.
Anacortes Tree Lighting Ceremony

We would like to give a heart-felt thank you to the following individuals, businesses and choirs that yearly help to trim the Community Tree.

- American Red Cross—The Islands Chapter
- Anacortes Construction Services
- Birch Equipment
- Blake Thomson
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Pioneer Tree Services
- Village Pizza
- Anacortes Community Theater Carolers—Tim Brown
- Anacortes High School Choir—Carole Leander
- Fidalgo Elementary Choir—Tina Franulovich-Martin
- Mt. Erie Choir—Ginger Orsini

Special thanks to the Berard Family of Anacortes for donating this year’s gorgeous white spruce!

VIC Holiday Party

A great big thank you to the Nantucket Inn and Anchor Catering for hosting a fabulous holiday party for the Visitor Information Center Volunteers.

Volunteers make a difference every day by giving the gift of time. Once they give an hour away it can never be replaced. It is hard to put a value on that time as it is priceless. As a volunteer they bring much to the organization; skills, advice, experience, friendship, and leadership. But time they give. In our time poor world they bear the gift of time. So, we take a little moment out to thank all volunteers for the amazing time that they give.

There were also many businesses in town that provided gifts for all to enjoy. Thanks so much!

- Airporter Shuttle
- Alley Cat Antiques
- Anaco Bay Inn
- Anacortes American
- Anacortes Financial Associates
- Anacortes Insurance Services/Allstate—Tamara Willis
- Anthony’s Restaurant
- Brown Lantern
- Cap Sante Inn
- Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
- Chandler’s Square
- Costco
- Donatello Flowers & Gifts
- Epicure…For the Passionate Cook
- Farmhouse Restaurant
- Fidalgo Bay RV Resort
- Gateway Chiropractic
- John Prosser/Windermere Real Estate
- Le Crema
- Nantucket Inn
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Pearl Buttons
- Pelican Bay Used Books
- Puget Sound Productions
- Radio Shack
- Read Me A Story
- Rockfish Grill
- Sebo’s
- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Tara Nurturing Massage Therapy
- The Apothecary Spa
- The Juicy Dog
- The Store
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store
- Village Pizza
- Walgreens
Keep the Cheer Here

Drawing Winner

December 7th, Round One Drawing winner: Brenda Cornett of Anacortes. (Round Two winner to be announced in January!)

Congratulations and Thank You

President's Award Winner: 20 Year Visitor Information Center volunteer, Wilma Cooper.

Community Service Award Winner: Long time Anacortes resident and community mentor Chris Terrell, How It Works

Horse Drawn Trolley Sponsors

Mayor Dean Maxwell joined the retailers during the parade on the horse drawn trolley.

Thank you to the following retailers for their support in sponsoring the Downtown Horse Drawn Trolley:

- Majestic Inn and Spa Nov. 23
- Read Me A Story Dec. 1
- Donatello Flowers and Gifts Dec. 8
- Alley Cat Antiques Dec. 15
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store Dec. 22

White Lights Bright Colors Contest Winners

Large Business Winners

1st Place – Rosario Assisted Living

2nd Place – Dr. Daniel Rasmussen

Small Business Winners

1st Place – Furin & Company

2nd Place – Ana-Cross Stitch

Honorable Mention – Cap Sante Court Retirement Community

Thank you to the following retailers for their support in sponsoring the Downtown Horse Drawn Trolley:

Majestic Inn and Spa Nov. 23
Read Me A Story Dec. 1
Donatello Flowers and Gifts Dec. 8
Alley Cat Antiques Dec. 15
Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store Dec. 22

The International Gateway celebrated its completion with a flag raising and ribbon cutting ceremony on December 12, 2012.
thanks...

Thank you to these businesses who supplied gifts for the giveaways this month’s Chamber Luncheon:

- Ana-Cross Stitch
- Anacortes American
- Anacortes Family Center
- Anacortes Properties, LLC
- Anacortes Yacht Charters
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bayside Specialties, Inc.
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Chinook Enterprises
- Cornerstone Home Lending
- Fidalgo Country Inn
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Lake Campbell Lodging
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Village Pizza
- Washington Federal

Thank you to Gere-A-Deli and the Depot Art and Community Center for co-hosting a wonderful Holiday after hours! And thank you to the following businesses for bringing a gift for the give-away!

- Anacortes Construction Services
- Anacortes Housing Authority
- Anacortes Properties, LLC
- Anacortes Studio 1010
- Barrett Financial, Ltd.
- Cap Sante Inn
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Earth Bound Books
- Eslick House & Boat Watch
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness
- Fine Edge Nautical Publishing
- Foundation Massage
- Le Crema Cakes
- Marketing With Mary
- Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Quantum Construction
- Read Me A Story
- Skagit Land Trust
- Skagit Publishing
- The Gateway Bed & Breakfast
- Village Pizza
- Washington Federal

Come see us for all your vehicle or vessel needs!

Registration renewals, title transfers, disabled parking placards, monthly tonnage, trip permits, dealer work.

HOURS: MON–FRI 8AM–5PM

ANACORTES MARINA
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Bill Douvier
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Marina

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Dianne Moritz
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Retail - Games

FOUNDATION MASSAGE THERAPY
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Sarah Nicodemus
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Massage Therapy

IMPRESSIONS SALON AND DAY SPA
2216 Commercial Avenue
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Salon

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Newspapers

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TOPPINS FROZEN YOGURT
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Frozen Yogurt

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918 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-4262
www.westmarine.com
Philip Ratliff
mar00025@westmarinestores.com
Marine Equipment & Supplies
Go Somewhere maps

Ferry-served communities have been working this year to produce a marketing plan designed to increase ferry ridership throughout the Puget Sound. This map will be on display on all vessels and in some terminals. Additionally, each community will produce their own “Go Somewhere” poster to be also on display on the vessels. Funding for this project was small, but through the ingenuity of this group of chamber and tourism professionals, we will be able to have a big impact to ferry riders. The idea of the map came from Leah Hines of our staff and the entire group embraced it and ran with it.

Surviving the post-holiday slow down

For many of our Anacortes businesses, the days between New Year’s Day and Valentine’s Day can be very slow. Tourists are off to warmer climates, locals are recovering from the holiday rush and customer flow is way down.

What’s a local business to do?

These six weeks can be a great time to wrap up 2012, review successes as well as things you might have done better and to plan for a better 2013.

Did you use all of your Chamber benefits and marketing opportunities in 2012? Now is a great time to plan for a more effective 2013.

Did you collect customer contact information in 2012? Now is a great time to collect and organize that precious data.

You didn’t collect any customer info? Now is a great time to set up a system to capture what many businesses consider crucial for success.

How about your street view, entry way and customer spaces? Customers won’t stop unless they notice you, won’t come in unless they are invited and won’t stay unless they are engaged. These six weeks of quiet time are a wonderful opportunity to evaluate, plan and customer spaces? Customers won’t stop unless they notice you, won’t come in unless they are invited and won’t stay unless they are engaged. These six weeks of quiet time are a wonderful opportunity to evaluate, plan and reset for 2013.

All economic signs point to a much better year in 2013, the benefits of a better economy will go to the businesses that are best prepared to take advantage!

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!

Encouraging Words is a service of EDASC, enhancing our quality of life through the creation and preservation of healthy businesses and good jobs. Learn more at www.skagit.org.
Thank you, volunteers!  Volunteer Hours: 248.5  Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Dine Out for Kids

Benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County

Monday, January 28

EAT HERE:

- Bobs Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- The Farmhouse Restaurant
- Frida's Mexican Restaurant
- Majestic Inn & Spa
- Rockfish Grill

HELP HERE.

Participating Anacortes restaurants are donating a portion of their proceeds for the entire day of dining on January 30, 2012 to the Anacortes Boys and Girls club.