State of the District presentation

Dr. Mark Wenzel, Anacortes School District superintendent, will give a “State of the District” presentation on January 9, 2014, in which he outlines initiatives regarding teaching and learning, technology and facilities.

The district will propose two measures to voters in February: a replacement of the maintenance and operations levy and a technology levy. In addition, the district will soon launch a facilities committee to review a district-wide audit, develop a strategic long-term plan, and make recommendations to the school board regarding a future bond.

The superintendent will also address new standards recently adopted by Washington state, as well as the new principal and teacher evaluation system.

Dr. Wenzel became superintendent in Anacortes last July. He previously served as superintendent in Methow Valley. He received degrees from London School of Economics and University of Washington. He lives in Anacortes with his wife, Julie, a theater director, and two children, Ruby, 4, and Eli, 2. Mark and Julie expect a third child in April.

Our sponsor Bobs Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon is a proud supporter of the Island’s Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since opening, Bob’s has made supporting the Red Cross a priority and will hold its annual fundraiser “Eat for the Red Cross,” March 29, 2014. The luncheon is held at the Lutheran Church 22nd & O catered by Gere-a-Deli for $15, please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away!

American Red Cross—Islands Chapter

The Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is honored to host the January Business After Hours event. Please join us at Gere-a-Deli for a fun and informative evening. Learn how we are moving the Islands Chapter new and exciting directions. We are working hard to make what we do visible and relevant to our island communities once again. Come and join us for great food, great company, great entertainment, and some unique prizes. Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross at Gere-a-Deli, 502 Commercial Avenue, January 16, 2014, 5:30–7:00PM. Please bring a gift for the give-away! RSVP online.
Here’s what the Keep the Cheer Here winners had to say about the Shop Local campaign:

**Kathy Wright**

“I believe shopping locally is important, so I’m glad to see a campaign that helps the local community.”

**Margarett Conboy**

“I do all my Christmas shopping downtown and I love it! It’s easy, convenient and I always find everything I need. I’ll definitely be back before the season is over.”

**Richelle Taylor**

“Keep the Cheer Here is great! My granddaughter requested something ‘antique-ie’ for Christmas so I stopped into Anacortes and filled a punch card on my first visit.”

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**chamber president’s award**

Kathy Larson, immediate past president, presented Mayor Dean Maxwell with the 2013 Chamber President’s Award. Dean has been a stalwart supporter of economic development and the business community and we value his partnership.

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**community service excellence award**

Gary Thramer of Edward Jones Investments is the 2013 recipient of the Community Service Excellence Award.
Williams & Nulle, PLLC was founded in Mount Vernon, WA when Ernest Williams, thought to be the first certified public accountant in public practice in Skagit County, formed a partnership with Donald Nulle in 1952. The two accountants had previously worked together in Seattle at a national accounting firm. In 1954, the partnership decided to open a second office in Anacortes. Don Escher, another associate from the Seattle firm, was brought in to manage the office which at that time shared office space with First Federal Savings & Loan Association until 1960 when the office was relocated to the Burton Building.

The firm has a broad base of both private and corporate clients throughout the United States. While tax preparation is a large part of the accounting business, the firm also handles all facets of accounting and auditing, including private company audits, preparation of compiled and reviewed financial statements, estate planning, litigation support, computer consulting, assisting with insurance claims for business damages and business consulting regarding the tax consequences of business mergers, acquisitions and sales and real estate transactions.

All accountants at the firm are members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Washington Society of CPAs. They are all subject to all of the professional standards, and the firm periodically undergoes a quality review inspection by an outside, independent CPA. The firm’s last quality review inspection resulted in a report with no exceptions, which indicates the high quality of their audit and accounting services.

The firm currently has six partners including Warren Walz in the Anacortes office and Mark Roetcisoender, Mike Cunningham, Kim Ray, Steve Tobiaison and Mark Reed in the Mount Vernon office. Current staff CPAs include Sean Kelly at the Anacortes office and Duane Gilliland, Patricia Anderson and Evy Gallegos at the Mount Vernon office. In addition, the firm currently employs 13 full-time employees.

Over the years, the firm has made several dramatic changes, including the purchase and remodeling of the former Moldstad Building, now the Williams & Nulle Building in Mount Vernon, a new office at Smokey Point in northern Snohomish County, and moving the Anacortes office from its long-time home in the Burton Building to a larger office in the Anderson Building at 1101 8th Street, Suite D.

Duane Knapp

Duane and Jackie Knapp own one of our newest brands in Anacortes. Pearl Buttons Vintage Style is a whimsical and beautiful collection of soft and romantic clothing, accessories and vintage treasures. Pearl Buttons is located at 904 Commercial Avenue in downtown Anacortes and features primarily new clothing and accessories from artisans worldwide.

Duane and Jackie are long-term residents of Anacortes who thoroughly enjoy our island lifestyle. They are deeply committed to providing the best customer service experience for our residents and visitors to Anacortes and the Skagit Valley.

Duane is also the founder and president of BrandStrategy, Inc. which has been headquartered in Anacortes for over 20 years and has personally advised over 325 leading brands in 15 countries. He is the author of several books including the new Global Destination BrandScience™, The BrandPromise® and The BrandMindset® published by McGraw-Hill and Destination BrandScience. His BrandPromise philosophy has been highly acclaimed and he has been published, quoted or featured in hundreds of books, magazines and newspapers.

As the senior corporate marketing officer, he was instrumental in developing and building many iconic brands in thousands of locations including Hampton Inn, Embassy Suites, Residence Inn, Homewood Suites, Holiday Inn, Cinnabon World Famous Cinnamon Rolls and Discoveries retail stores and travel catalog (now Skymall). Duane also has extensive boardroom expertise as a member of many boards including N.Y.S.E. firms, universities and philanthropic organizations.
Tree Lighting Ceremony

This year’s Tree Lighting was awesome despite the cold weather in large part due to our new member Sound Events as one attendee told me, “I cried, this is the first time I could clearly hear the children’s adorable voices.” There are so many thanks to give to all of those that contributed their time to make this traditional event possible; Cap Sante Court Retirement Center, Sebo’s Hardware and Equipment Rental, Birch Equipment, Anacortes Construction Services, Village Pizza, the Salvation Army, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Tesoro Refining and Marketing Co., Colleen Craig Windermere Real Estate, Lisa Helm-Morrow KeyBank, Rich Heidecker Youth Dynamics, Jesse Talosi Skagit County, Mark Van Oort Business Bank, Sarah Jurkovich Washington Federal, John Williams Skagit Publishing, Veronica Spencer Take Shape For Life, Blake Thompson for bringing Santa, Ruby Lindsay—elf, Haley Moon—elf, Geoffrey Hamilton—clean-up crew, Tina Martin, Ginger Orsini, Carole Leander, Ian Simensen, David Jones, Tim Brown and his Anacortes Community Theater players, Hamilton & Cox, the An-O-Chords, many thanks to Jeff Gent of Guemes for donating this year’s tree—Phil Burton and Todd Figen show for cutting it down and hauling it across the ferry to Anacortes, and Pioneer Tree Services for putting the tree in place and removing the tree. And finally a great big thanks to our Town Crier Richard Riddell for emceeing, all the kids that sang and played and all of you that braved the cold night’s air to celebrate the season!

White Lights/Bright Colors Contest

Anacortes is aglow with cheery lights and colorful window displays reflecting the Holiday Season, the White Lights Bright Colors judges (comprised of volunteers from the Visitor’s Center) had a daunting task to choose the best of the best—thank you to everyone for your spirit and participation!

First Place: Large Business
Bank of the Pacific

First Place: Small Business
In Stitches Quilt Shop

Second Place: Large Business:
Cap Sante Court Retirement
Community

Second Place: Small Business
Ana Cross Stitch

honorable mentions

Boxes and Bears
Anthony’s Restaurant
Epicure...For the
Passionate Cook
Red Salon
Camwood Jewelers
Visitor Information Center Holiday Appreciation Party

Once again a magical event honoring the Visitor Information Center volunteers took place in December. The Majestic Inn and Spa hosted the party with wonderful decorations, tours of the hotel, food and drink, and their overall generous hospitality.

The visitor center is managed by a group of very dedicated people who give to their business community each and every day and once a year they are treated to a special event.

Many businesses in town also provided gifts to the volunteers in appreciation. Thanks so much!

• Anacortes Inn
• AAA Yacht Finders
• Ana-Cross Stitch
• Anthony’s Restaurant
• The Apothecary Spa
• Bandanas Skin Art & Fine Art
• BeachCastle Sweets
• Cap Sante Inn
• Cap Sante Marine

• Donatello Flowers and Gifts
• Edward Jones/Gary Thrramer
• Epicure…for the Passionate Cook
• Farmhouse Restaurant
• Gere-a-Deli Restaurant
• In Stitches Quilt Shoppe
• Island Hospital Gifts
• Island Styles
• Islands West Realty
• John Prosser, Windermere Real Estate
• Linda Lipke/Celtic Christmas Tickets
• Mad Hatters Ice Cream
• Mt. Vernon Carpet One Floor and Home
• Native Springs Spa
• Papa Murphys
• Pearl Buttons
• Portalis
• Quantum Construction
• Read Me A Story
• Salon Rouge Spa

• Sebos Hardware and Equipment Rental
• The Store
• Tulip Festival
• Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store

The December drawing winner of Thank You Thursdays is Bonnie Riley

Bonnie won $240 in ShopAnacortes Dollars by shopping at Walgreens in November. Look for a list of participating businesses at anacortes.org
Celebrate 10 Years of March for Meals at the Bowling Bash!

The Bowling Bash is the premier fund raising event for Meals on Wheels, the program providing hot nutritious meals to Anacortes’ seniors.

Last year, 40 teams of 160 bowlers, mostly local businesses, bowled and had fun while raising funds for a good cause. You’re invited to join the fun!

Sponsor a team of your own bowlers or we’ll find the bowlers for you, likely some very deserving kids.

Read more about the Bowling Bash in enclosed flyer. Email us at bowlingbash@comcast.net for more info.

member renewals

- Barrett Financial, Ltd.
- Bayshore Office Products, Inc.
- Boxes and Bears
- Calico Cupboard Old Town Bakery
- Cascades Job Corps
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Foundation Massage Therapy
- Molly McIntosh
- Highline Pavement Maintenance
- I Love Skagit County Visitors’ & Newcomer Guide
- Impressions Salon and Day Spa
- Lakeside Industries
- Lopez Island Creamery
- Lotus Natural Health Center
- Louis Auto Glass, Inc.
- Philip W. Madden, D.D.S.
- Marine Detail Specialists
- North Islands Young Life
- OASYS, Inc.
- Olympic Legal Services, P.S.
- Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors
- PND Engineers, Inc.
- Quantum Construction
- Ship Harbor Yacht Charters
- Skyline Marine Center/Skyline Marina
- SkylineMOorage Sales
- Transpac Marinas, Inc.
- Village Pizza/The Wheelhouse
- Watermark Book Co.

new member

GIRL’D CHEESE BY KARYL
619 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
(360) 202-8698
girldcheese@gmail.com

Gourmet grilled cheese, homemade soups and dessert. We grill or you take and grill. Daily specials.

thanks...

Thank you to Business Bank for their sponsorship of the December luncheon and to Westside Pizza for catering. Cheers to the following businesses for the festival yuletide gifts!

- Business Bank
- Cornerstone Home Lending
- Gentry House
- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Skagit Publishing
- Washington Federal

Thank you to Burton Jewelers for hosting the December after hours! Thank you to the following businesses for bringing gifts for the Business After Hours give-away:

- Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
- Bank of the Pacific
- Burton Jewelers
- Edward Jones—Gary Thramer
- Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing
- Fidalgo Island Artillery Co.
- Girl’s Cheese by Karyl
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- Majestic Inn and Spa
- pflynn+associates
- Anacortes Sun Tanning
- Anacortes Red Cross—The Islands Chapter

Chamber Chat

with the Chamber Staff

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
4:00–5:00 pm
Chamber Board Room

The city is going through a mandatory comprehensive plan update—come learn about the process with city planner Ryan Larsen.

Find us on Facebook

facebook.com/anacorteschamberofcommerce
The budding of the tulip fields is not as far away as you may think and with it comes the sun and wine on the pier!

This is our 6th year welcoming winemakers from around our state, last year being our highest attended event yet—we expect even bigger crowds to fill our town with folks enjoying everything Anacortes has to offer the weekend of Saturday April 12! We look forward to winemaker dinners, area shops and restaurants featuring wines from the festival and the many April events from our community partners.

This is a great festival to promote your business. Please contact Cecilie at the chamber (360-293-7911) for further information and details.
Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Mark Lawrence  Simply Yards Landscape and Design

PRESIDENT ELECT
Karin Baldwin  Quantum Construction

TREASURER
Matt Miller  Read Me A Story

PAST PRESIDENT
Kathy Larson  Puget Sound Energy

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Carol Van Iterson  Bank of the Pacific

Board of Directors
Darren Boarnet  Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Jody Carlisle  Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Duane Clark  Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Colleen Craig  Windermere Real Estate
Peggy Flynn  pf Flynn + Associates
Laurie Gere  City of Anacortes
Jim Gordon  Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
Bob Hyde  Port of Anacortes
Gary Jacobson  Attorney
Brian Johnson  Anacortes Construction Services
Chris Long  Jolly Mon Charters
Duane Knapp  Pearl Buttons
Andy Schwenk  Northwest Rigging
Bernadette Stanek  Island Hospital
Chris Terrell  How It Works
Mark Wenzel  Anacortes School District

Chamber Staff
Stephanie Hamilton  Executive Director
Mary Talos  Visitor Information & Operations Director
Cecilie Miller  Event & Communications Director
Tricia Sharp  Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

Production
Photography by Steve Berentson
Newsletter designed by LMac Graphics

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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

Commerce Means Business & Beautification

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce was pleased to provide the following beautification efforts to our city in 2013:

- Community Christmas Tree
- Downtown Hanging Baskets
- Downtown Holiday Street Lighting
- International Gateway Maintenance
- Pocket Park Maintenance
- Uptown Snowflakes
- Uptown Street Banners

Photo Credit: Steve Berentson