WA Secretary of State To Address Voting Changes

Join us in welcoming Washington’s Secretary of State to Anacortes for the President’s Luncheon on Thursday, July 8, noon at the Salvation Army meeting room, 3001 R Avenue, sponsored by Wells Fargo.

For the first time in nearly 70 years, Washington voters will face a new primary.

Secretary of State Sam Reed will address these important changes to the September 14 Primary in his address to the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce at the President’s Luncheon. Washington voters must only choose from one political party’s slate of candidates. Failing to follow directions and “crossing over” between political parties will cost citizens their partisan votes. Reed, a strong advocate of a well-informed electorate, is launching a statewide public education campaign to alert every voter of this new Montana-style primary and ensure all votes are counted.

You must R.S.V.P. for this event, which will be catered by Gere-A-Deli, by calling the Chamber at 293-7911.

Silver Anniversary – 25th Annual Shipwreck Day!

Looking for that perfect tool, antique treasure, unusual collectible, Christmas decoration, craft or boat part? Downtown Anacortes will feature its 25th annual Shipwreck Day and Flea Market with bargain hunters from all over the northwest from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, July 17.

More than 300 booth spaces will be sold to people who have been saving their best treasures for this big day. Booths are set up on Commercial Avenue from 10th to 4th St., displaying everything from homemade goods, crafts, antiques, collectibles, food, plants and many other items. Downtown merchants also participate by selecting merchandise to be marked down that day.

A live entertainment stage has been added this year at 6th and Commercial Avenue and marketing has been expanded as well with ads reaching from Seattle to Bellingham.

Single spaces are 10 by 20 feet for $70, and double spaces for $100. Vendors will need to bring their own equipment (tables, etc.) and garbage container.

Shipwreck Day is sponsored by the Anacortes Chamber, with proceeds benefiting community holiday decorations and activities as well as the funding of beautification projects in Anacortes. There will again be a Classic Car Show headed up by Dave Overtone of “Corvette Alley”. Location of the show is 4th St. and Commercial Avenue. Registration will be at 8 a.m., with trophies presented at 2:30 p.m. Spaces are still available. Call Beth Prins at (360) 293-7911 or visit our web site at www.anacortes.org.
The Need for a Unified Vision and Development Master Plan

There has been some talk recently about the proposed retail development on Highway 20 and how that would impact the merchants on Commercial Avenue and the surrounding streets. Surprisingly, I have only heard concern from one retailer since the article relating to the subject appeared in the Anacortes American. Could this be an indicator that the local merchants are not worried about the addition of a so-called “big box” retailer?

When Ward Byers from the American called me for an opinion to print in the newspaper, I knew I could get blasted for my comments from either side of the issue, depending on the opinion of the reader. There are those who would love to save themselves the drive to Burlington and Mount Vernon for clothes and other supplies that are not available in Anacortes, and there are those who believe that adding a retail giant would be the beginning of the end for our local, independently owned small businesses.

Not having discussed this issue with the Chamber board of directors yet, my comments here are strictly personal opinion.

First, let me state that I am not anxious to see our charming city become part of ‘Generica’ or ‘Anytown, USA’ where every strip mall and huge shopping center looks the same. I would be ashamed to be a part of that. Anacortes has so much potential if developed properly as part of a master plan that takes its inspiration from the maritime heritage and geographic location of our island community.

That being said, I see both pros and cons to the proposal and think that much needs to be considered before a decision is made. I do believe that we have holes in our retail business mix that, if filled, would be a definite plus for our community.

Right now we lose a lot of business to our neighboring communities because we lack certain goods and services. Countless times have I heard complaints about not being able to buy socks, underwear, shoes and more here in Anacortes. To get a sense of the leakage, you only need to stand outside the mall or the other large retailers to count the number of people you know from Anacortes. A shopper may only have gone for a pair of pants but ends up having lunch, filling up the gas tank and maybe seeing a movie while they are there. One hundred dollars or more later, they return to Anacortes.

If a large retailer were to locate in Anacortes, I don’t believe we would see a large amount of revenue disappear from our local shops because it is already absent. Granted, some businesses would feel the pinch of competition, but overall I believe we would actually keep more Anacortes dollars here in town. If that shopper bought their pants in Anacortes, there is a good chance they would get their gas, lunch and movie tickets locally as well.

Still, the question is how do we fill those retail holes without sacrificing our small-town charm and our family-owned businesses. After all, this is the essence of Anacortes and it needs to be preserved.

Dropping a large retail center in an area of the city that is completely separated from the current retail center seems counter-productive to efforts to strengthen our retail core. In a perfect world we would locate some medium size retailers, with the right mix of products, in an attractive building that fits the town, in a location that strengthens the commercial district we already have. Can this be done? Probably.

The first step is to determine which goods and services are needed and which are not. Another grocery store, for example, is not needed according to typical population assessments used to determine the feasibility of such stores. More clothing options, however, are needed.

The Chamber is currently working on a community survey that will help to identify current retail strengths and weaknesses, which can then be used as a business retention, expansion and recruitment tool. With this information, our economic development committee, realtors and existing businesses could work to fill the gaps.

No matter which side of the fence you are on, one thing seems obvious. The community needs to arrive at a consensus on what it wants to be and how to get there.

A unified vision and corresponding master plan, including theme and architectural style, would provide a blueprint that various stakeholders could work from as they develop their individual pieces. The result could be a well-planned community that provides charm and satisfies retail desires for its residents and visitors alike.

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**THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR**

**The Need for a Unified Vision and Development Master Plan**

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**GEORGIOS SUBS**

_“The best subs in town”_

910 11th St. Anacortes
360-293-5574

Fresh sandwiches, soups, salads and smoothies for dine-in or take-out.
Business After-Hours at KLKI Radio July 15

We had so much fun at last year’s Business After Hours at KLKI Radio that we are doing it again! This month’s event will be hosted by Bill Berry and his staff on Thursday, July 15 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a party on the patio where you will enjoy hors d’oeuvres, beverages, door prizes, networking and of course, “the music of your life”. KLKI is located at 2416 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes.

Please R.S.V.P. to the Chamber at 293-7911 or info@Anacortes.org so we can get an accurate count for catering. See you there!

Grow Your Business at the Chamber’s Business Connections Breakfast July 27

Are you ready for the best networking meeting yet? Then join us for the Business Connections Breakfast on Tuesday, July 27, 7:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army meeting room, 3001 R Avenue in Anacortes.

The Chamber is hosting this meeting with a complimentary continental breakfast, door prizes and a fast-paced networking session designed to introduce your business to others and build your customer and contact base.

This special meeting is open to all Anacortes businesses so spread the word and get ready for a great event. You must R.S.V.P. for this event and space is limited to the first 80 people to call the Chamber at 293-7911.

Chamber Night at Skagit Speedway

Start your engines! Skagit Speedway will be hosting a “Chamber Night” Saturday August 7th in cooperation with SCCEDA (Skagit County Chamber Executive Directors Association).

This event will involve all seven chambers in Skagit County and will not only be a great opportunity for networking, but also a lot of fun!

Skagit Speedway will generously provide two complimentary tickets to each chamber member in the county who registers in advance with their chamber. The evening will be filled with exciting racing and great events focusing on our chamber members!

Mark your calendars and call your chamber today to get on the V.I.P. list. A special tailgate & networking party will kick off the fun beginning at 6 pm with racing at 7 pm.

Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy Skagit Speedway and have some fun while promoting your business to other Skagit County businesses. You must call the chamber at (360) 293-7911 to register for this event. See you there!
FEATURED BUSINESS

Paraclete Charter Service, Inc.

For the past 12 years Paraclete Charter Service, Inc. (PCS) has been known primarily as a water taxi providing 24 hour passenger service (private Ferry) throughout the San Juan Islands primarily for people that live, work and provide services to property owners in the islands.

As a result of supply and demand, PCS has become much more than a water taxi and now provide private charters and cruises, passenger ferry service and scheduled special events.

Visit www.paracletecharters.com and discover scheduled cruises such as Father’s Day, Lavender Gardens, Ladies Night Out, 4th of July and more.

In addition to scheduled events and private ferry service, PCS offers private charters for such events as: weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, reunions, memorial services, island cruises, sightseeing, wildlife, company parties, visiting friends and fund raisers. Or simply go for a ride and cruise Fidalgo Island.

PCS has three vessels offering service 24 hours a day year round: Sylvan Spirit (64 passengers), Koinonia (48 passengers) and Paraclete (34 passengers).

Private charters are priced by the hour, Passenger service and scheduled events per passenger. Needless to say, this not only creates jobs and promotes business in our community; it offers a variety of events for both citizens and visitors.

PCS has gone the extra mile to network with other services and businesses through gift certificates, sponsorships or services in conjunction with a cruise.

Quality businesses working together to create better service and value makes Anacortes a wonderful place to live, work and visit. Reservations are required. www.paracletecharters.com. Call (360) 293-5920 or toll free 1-800-808-2999 or email us at skip@paracletecharters.com.

Chamber President Randy Burgess presents Laurie Gere of Gere-A-Deli with a Beautification Award for the recent improvements to the interior and exterior of her building.

Caught In The Act of Doing Business

How it Works owner Chris Terrell looks over the latest web creation by staff member Neil Berg. The How It Works team created the Chamber’s site found at www.Anacortes.org

AnacortesToday.com

The Anacortes “family album” that grows each day

Act now! $40 banner ads! 293-4852

If you are reading this ad now, so are other Chamber members. They could be reading your business message instead!

Call the Chamber today for advertising rates at 293-7911.
Welcome New Members

Anacortes Community Shelter Project
Emergency shelter for women with children and two parent families. Food, clothing, social services referrals.
P.O. Box 681
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-2993
Eric Johnson

Alma’s Country Store
Grocery, deli, hardware, garden supplies, lunch served daily. Milkshakes best on Decatur.
Decatur Island
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-375-6090
Sandra Crosby

Rich & Gail Ballow, Realtors Windermere
Rich & Gail provide the real estate experience & services expected in today’s market.
3110 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-8008
www.anacortesrealtor.com

The Fit Female
Certified personal trainer and registered nurse provides in-home fitness training for women.
1406 6th St.
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-420-6515
Peggy Raymond

Garner’s Northwest, Inc.
Garner’s Northwest experts in lawn and garden maintenance.
3209 K Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-6615
Jim Garner

Island Espresso
We sell specialty coffee drinks.
1801 Commercial Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-661-4705
Terry & Mark Kratzer

Prudential Skagit Realtors
Real Estate sales & service, property management, commercial, residential and new agent education & licensing.
300 E. College Way
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428-4111
Robin Ross, Seth Bartlett, Astrid Almott
www.prudentialskagitrealtors.com

Victoria Express
Passenger ferry between Port Angeles, Victoria and Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands.
P.O. Box 1928
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-452-8088
Nell Clausen
http://www.victoriaexpress.com

Membership Renewals

Helen Smith
Anacortes Interiors
Cap Sante Inn
Islands Inn
San Juan Safaris
Dace Services LLC/ Diversified Systems
Happy Valley Farms
Sebo’s Do-It-Center
Express Personnel Services
Fidalgo Country Inn
San Juan Airlines
Sunset Beach B & B
Finn’s Photo
Lopez Islander Resort & Cabins
Autumn Leaves Bed & Breakfast
Lake Campbell Lodging
Art Shotwell
John L. Scott R.E./Anacortes
Compass Wines LLC
Frontier Building Supply

Read Me A Story Ribbon-Cutting and Open House

Ribbon Cutting – Chamber Treasurer Mike Keller cuts the ribbon to officially welcome Read Me A Story to Anacortes. Stop by and say hello to owners Heather and Matt Miller and you’ll be impressed by the wonderful selection of fun and educational toys, books and clothing too!
Thank you Volunteers!

May 2004

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Executive Board

President
Randy Burgess / Ace Hardware

President-Elect
Pam Allen / Anaco Inn / Anaco Bay Inn

Secretary
Jean Fantini / Donatello Flowers & Gifts

Treasurer
Mike Keller / Scott Richards Insurance

Immediate Past President
Steve Henery / Skagit State Bank

Executive Director
Michael Broome

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Shane Aggergaard / Island Adventure Charters
Bill Berry / KLKI Radio
Gretchen Buchmeyer / Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Dianna Chonka / Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
Madeleine Roozen Cook / Peoples Bank
Mike King* / City of Anacortes
Vince Oliver* / Island Hospital
Dan Porter / Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Rick Sadler / Frontier Industries
Dan Stahl* / Port of Anacortes
Nels Strandberg / Strandberg Constructions
Gene Tanaka / T Bailey Inc.

* ex-officio

Staff

Executive Director
Michael Broome

Events Coordinator/VIC Manager
Beth Prins

Membership Services
Sue Keller

Accounts Manager
Kathleen Hobbs

Director, Destination Downtown Anacortes
Nancy Jankelson

Licensing Sub-Agents
April Conger
Betsy Rogers
Kristi Strickland

Anacortes Jazz Festival
On Curtis Wharf
September 17-18-19

Overlooking the waters of the San Juan Islands
Featuring Northwest and International Artists
More than 20 Jazz Bands on two stages Saturday & Sunday
Plus Kick-Off Gala & Concert Friday, Gospel Brunch Sunday
and Jazz Walk in the clubs Friday and Saturday Nights

For information call (360) 293-7911
or visit www.anacortes.org

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