Multi Chamber After Hours at Tulip Valley Winery

Don’t miss out! Tulip Valley Winery hosts their always fun annual all chamber after hours July 10, 2014 from 4:00–6:00PM. Meet fellow chamber members from all over the county in this beautiful and lively setting.

Why Attend Business Happy Hour?
- Meet potential new customers
- Strengthen ties with existing customers and clients
- Check out some of Skagit Counties’ best businesses!

Don’t forget your business cards and bring a door prize for maximum exposure. Tulip Valley Winery: 16163 State Rt. 536, Mt Vernon, WA. Please RSVP online.

Fidalgo DanceWorks

Fidalgo DanceWorks is pleased to host the next After Hours event on July 17th from 5:30–7:00. We will be in our lovely Annex studio serving drinks and snacks. Enjoy tours of the studios, videos of past shows and photos with your favorite Nutcracker characters. In addition we are excited to introduce Julie Wenzel as our new Executive Director and Amy Guerra as our Artistic Director. Julie comes with a history of leadership in non-profit performing arts organizations and is excited to find her new place at FDW. Amy has been an instructor and FDW and brings years of ballet instruction to her new position. Come meet and greet and enjoy time with fellow business people of Anacortes. Fidalgo Danceworks is proud to be part of the amazing arts community here in Anacortes: 901 Third Street. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away!
Over the next few months there will be much discussion about Shell’s Crude Oil unloading facility.

On May 5, the Board of Directors of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce voted in support of Shell Puget Sound Refinery’s development of a rail facility, which will allow them to take in crude oil that arrives to the refinery by train. This project is crucial to our community; here are some talking points for you to consider:

- The refinery employs more than 700 people (Shell employees and contractors) with an annual payroll of about $45 million. Keeping these jobs in our community is important to not only the people who work at the refinery but also to the county as a whole.

- Most of the oil that Shell refines comes from the fields on Alaska’s North Slope, where production has been in decline for years. That crude needs to be replaced with oil from other sources in order for the refinery to remain viable and competitive to other west coast refineries.

- Shell is committed to the safety of the workers at the refinery and the people and environment of the surrounding community. Its rail facility will be designed with state-of-the-art safety and environmental features. The Shell team has conducted a thorough analysis to identify potential risks and all have been addressed.

- Maintaining a viable Shell refinery in our area is critical to ensuring that essential fuels such as gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel are available to customers.

- Shell contracts with more than 75 local firms in the region, and those contracts total more than $125 million annually. This economic activity is critical to the success of our communities.

- Shell is a good neighbor, with annual giving over $300,000.

Mark Lawrence
— Simply Yards Landscape and Design
Mark@simplyyards.com

Anacortes is a huge hit at the 2014 NW Writers Conference

Our Anacortes Marketing and Promotions representative, Tricia Sharp, attended the 2014 Northwest Writers Conference in Spokane Washington. The goal was to persuade published writers to come and experience Anacortes for one of their upcoming writing assignments. Tricia was assigned to give 10-minute presentations to different groups of writers from the entire northwest region. After explaining how Anacortes is a hidden gem of world-class restaurants, hotels, attractions and shopping—the writers started taking notes, asking great questions and giving great feedback:

“You’re right—we don’t write about Anacortes enough, we always write about how it is a gateway instead of a destination. I need to come back up there and check it out again.”
—Eileen Flaherty, Freelance Writer

“I had no idea Anacortes was so cool, what a fresh perspective—I thought Anacortes was just an old rich retirement community.”
—Nancy Jo, PNW Writer

Tricia is putting together a bank of opportunities for enticing the writers and has already had a great response from our members. If you haven’t already contacted Tricia to be added to the list of itineraries, please contact her ASAP at tsharp@anacortes.org
member profile

Vivi’s Kitchen

Viviano Arenas was born in Mexico. She lived in El Paso, Texas until 1991. She then moved to Friday Harbor with her two children for a short period of time, until she got a great job opportunity with the Anacortes School District where she has been since 1993! She has had a passion for cooking her entire life and decided to fulfill her dream by opening Vivi’s Kitchen. She offers authentic, homemade Mexican dishes that are made from the heart. She is available to cater any size event. You will see her often walking down Commercial Avenue with a basket full of delicious tamales, salsas and guacamole. She is located at 1802 32nd Street, (360) 540-2753. Give her a call and see what kind of scrumptiousness she can bring to your next event. Vivi would like to thank Anacortes for all their support and believing in her cooking. In her spare time she enjoys gardening.

meet your board

Jody Ayon

Jody was born in Salem, Oregon and lived there until age 13, when her family moved to Southern California. She graduated high school in 1983, married, attended college, started a family, divorced, and made the big decision to pack up her two sons and move back to the Pacific Northwest in 1991. Once she arrived in Washington, she lived in Oak Harbor and worked at several temporary jobs until she began work as a contractor at the Shell Refinery in 1994 as a timekeeper in the instrument and electrical shop. In 1998 she became an administrative assistant in the maintenance department. In 2000 she was hired as a Shell employee and soon after became the executive assistant to the general manager and refinery leadership team. In 2008 she was promoted to communications and social performance coordinator, which is her favorite of all the positions she has held at the refinery over the 20 years she has worked there. In her current role, she gets to manage Shell Refinery’s donations to local non-profits and employee volunteer activities in the community. “I have the best job in the refinery” says Jody. “It’s something I am passionate about! I love being involved in the community, and it’s nice to feel like what I do makes a difference in someone’s life.” Jody continued. “I moved to Anacortes from Oak Harbor about two years ago, because I love this community so much! This is my home. Now I don’t just work here, I get to live here too.”

Jody is a proud graduate of the Leadership Skagit class of 2009. Since graduating, Jody has served on the boards of Youthnet, American Red Cross, and Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Jody is of the opinion that Leadership Skagit opened her eyes to the many needs and opportunities to make a positive difference in the Skagit Valley.

“Being a chamber member is so valuable” Jody said. “It helps me to stay informed, involved and connected.” As an Anacortes Chamber Board member for the last several years, Jody is impressed by the professional staff and chamber board that works hard to provide great customer service and value to its members. “It’s a great team” says Jody. “There is a lot of passion and energy!”
25th Annual Anacortes Waterfront Festival


We also would like to thank the sponsors of the 2014 Milk Carton Derby: Edward Jones—Jeffery Pleet, Quantum Construction, Anacortes Construction Services and Mister T’s Embroidery & Trophies!
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thanks...

Thank you to Scott Richards Insurance for sponsoring, Bob Hyde for presenting and Swinomish Casino & Lodge for catering and hosting a great State of the Port luncheon!

Thank you to the following businesses for bringing a gift for the give-away:

- EDASC
- Port of Anacortes
- Skagit Publishing
- Windermere Real Estate—Catherine Mers

Thank you to the Majestic Inn & Spa for hosting a beautiful evening in their new ballroom and to the following businesses for bringing a gift for the give-away:

- Ace Hardware
- Apothecary Spa
- Champions Real Estate Services
- Chicago Title Company
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness
- Home Place Special Care Center
- Lincoln Theatre Center Foundation
- Majestic Inn & Spa
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Scott Richards Insurance
- The Troll House

new members

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Dr. Cameron Bigge is the owner of Fidalgo Island Chiropractic Clinic in Anacortes, Wa. He was born and raised in Anacortes and is proud of it. As a young boy Cameron had migraine headaches. A local chiropractor fixed his neck bones and permanently relieved his headaches. For this experience he is forever grateful towards the chiropractic approach to human health and inspired him to become a chiropractor. Dr. Bigge moved back to Anacortes because he wanted to give back to the community that gave him so much as a child. He is grateful to be close to his family, the great people of Anacortes, the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) and the plethora of activities to do in the area to fill his adventurous soul. He is an avid runner, hiker, rock climber and bike rider. You may see him riding his bike around town and on the Tommy Thompson trail, hiking and running the 40+ miles of trails in the ACFL or climbing the rock faces on the south face of Mt. Erie. Dr. Bigge is first and foremost a patient of chiropractic. Chiropractic care allows him to stay healthy and function well with what ever life throws his way.

Ambassador Profile

Cameron Bigge

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Anacortes Brewery 20th Anniversary

The Anacortes Brewery is celebrating their 20th Anniversary! To celebrate, the brewery will be throwing a 20th anniversary party Saturday, July 26th at the Heart of Anacortes located directly behind the Rockfish Grill. This all-age community event will feature great food, music and beer garden. The event runs from noon to 8pm and is free to the public. Come on down and enjoy the fun and help your local brewery celebrate their milestone.
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Cecilie Miller Event & Communications Director
Tricia Sharp Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

Photography by Steve Berentson
Newsletter designed by LMac Graphics

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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