Sunnyside Up

The Sunnyside Up Breakfast membership meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12 @ 7:00 am at the Majestic Inn & Spa. Dale O’Brian, the executive Director of SKAT, will be sharing how our local transit system works and how it can help your business. North Islands Young Life will also be presenting.

Sunnyside Up is also half networking, so prepare you one minute infomercial about your business. Donate to the door prizes and receive further promotion for your business. Please RSVP to the chamber — the breakfast is $10.

Business After Hours

Mike, Leslie and Matt Freeman along with John Hartsock will open their hangar for chamber members on Thursday, June 19 for our Business After Hours at the Airline Training Academy at the Anacortes airport, hangar #1.

The Airline Training Academy is a comprehensive aviation training center operated by experienced professional pilots. They offer flight training, systems and ground instruction for all levels of experience. They also provide maintenance, aircraft sales, hangar development and construction.

Chamber Position on Cell Towers

On May 6, 2008, U. S. District Court Judge Richard A. Jones issued a ruling requiring Anacortes to provide a building permit to T Mobile for a cell tower. This followed extended negotiations between the City of Anacortes and the company to determine an appropriate cell tower location. A dozen sites were offered (one at no cost to T Mobile). The company rejected all sites, filed suit, and prevailed in District Court, based on an earlier Sprint case, which has now come under review.

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce wishes to affirm our support of the City of Anacortes in this matter. We believe it is important that local jurisdictions maintain appropriate control over local development. We recognize that there is a balance between the needs of telecommunications providers and City planners. In this case, however, the City did make accommodation. We encourage the City in their judicial review effort.
June finds us in the beginning of our “event” season with the Waterfront Festival a great sunny success, the first Trawler Fest having been completed and everyone looking forward to next year, the staff gearing up for Shipwreck Day July 19, then on to the 5th Annual Jazz Festival August 29, 30, 31, and September 1. Now, get your calendars out and mark them—you do not want to miss any of this!

The Chamber Board has been busy with many issues that have come before us. We have surveyed our membership on pertinent issues and acted accordingly, reviewed the Policy Manual and updated many sections, planned an Annual Meeting on November 15 (save that date as you will be voting on your slate of officers and new board members as well as celebrating the award recipients), monitored the Washington State Ferry FAC meetings for news of the international ferry run, continued to recruit new members and are now at 450 with 500 being our goal by December 31, 2008, and instituted an Audit Committee for the August audit.

We have also reviewed the policy regarding distribution of our mailing list — specifically, “A business list is available free-of-charge to members (a fee is charged to provide labels). The list is available to non-members at a fee. Requests for civic purposes shall be handled at the discretion of the Executive Director. Mailing list shall not be knowingly provided to anyone for the purposes of partisan politics." We do not provide an electronic membership list to any one. With the political season coming upon us, please keep this policy in mind.

The Board is interested in advocating for our members and informing you of pending legislation and public policies. In that vein, we would like to bring to your attention an important development in our geographic area concerning our hydro-electric power sources, rate increases and the sale of our infrastructure to foreign owners. We will not be taking a position on this issue as a body but want you to be aware of the possible take-over of the PSE by the Macquarie Corporation — a Canadian, Australian, international company. The PSE and the Macquarie Corporation are referring to it as a “merger” and as the Attorney General of the State of Washington, Rob McKenna, is now involved; we wanted to alert you to the importance of this business transaction. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has not yet given its approval so there is time for your comments. The commission has received 2,854 comments: 2,754 opposed, 27 in favor, and 73 undecided. Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business363353_pse16.html]

It is a pleasure meeting so many of our new members at our events. Please come and see for yourself what the Chamber is doing for you!

Waterfront Festival: A Great Success

The 18th Annual Waterfront Festival was a great success in bringing the water back to the event. New features included the very popular Quick ‘n Dirty Boat Building demonstration, a Walking Tour of a Working Waterfront (sponsored by the Anacortes Noon Kiwanis), Mystic Sea Charter’s tour of American Gold Sea-food Farm, a trailered boat show, and a remote-controlled sail boat regatta. Returning this year again were the free boat rides sponsored by the Anacortes Yacht Club and the ever-popular kids boat building area sponsored by the Fidalgo Island Rotary.

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to produce this all new Waterfront Festival and thanks the community for their support — special thanks goes to the host of the festival, the Port of Anacortes, and to our top sponsor, Shell Puget Sound Refinery. Hop to the Web site to see a list of all our sponsors.
I grew up on San Juan Island and remember being impressed with Anacortes as I passed through on the way to the ferry. The city had all the joys of island living and small town charm without the hassles of ferry travel. I recall thinking Anacortes would be a nice place to live.

After becoming a Doctor of Audiology, I was given the opportunity to practice in Anacortes. I took over Anacortes Hearing Center, a small part-time office on Commercial Avenue, from a colleague. As the practice grew, I soon found my education had not fully prepared me for business ownership. In graduate school, I learned a lot about ears and hearing, but very little about business management.

Marketing is one aspect of business management that I needed to learn more about. It included finding ways to convince those with hearing loss to get tested and seek treatment. Now the demographics of the market are changing. My patients are getting younger as the Baby Boom generation acquires hearing loss and they are demanding new and innovative products. Some hearing instruments are now marketed like a sports cars or fashion accessories—with sleek styles and trendy color names. Patients can choose Sunset Orange or Racing Green.

I stress the importance of hearing conservation for businesses and individuals. Workers at noisy work sites are in danger of permanent hearing damage. Even everyday noises from lawn mowers, power tools, and loud music can have detrimental effects. Anacortes Hearing Center offers customized, soft earpieces to provide comfortable hearing protection on the job or just out in the yard. Helping people hear well and running a thriving business have been truly gratifying. Practicing my profession at Anacortes Hearing Center has fulfilled my lifelong wish to live and work here. Anacortes Hearing Center is located at 3202 Commercial.

Member Profile: Anacortes Hearing Center

by Holly Kennedy, Au. D.

Your local, independent Doctor of Audiology

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MEET YOUR BOARD

Suzanne Knutson

Anacortes born and raised, my family has been a part of the fishing community my entire life. My childhood summers were spent with my Gram, Elsa Atterberry, while Mom worked on the state ferries and dad fished in Alaska. As the eldest of Elsa’s grandchildren, my sister Krys and I have wonderful memories of our Gram. She was the queen of creative chaos. Her house was filled with wonderful piles of exotic fabrics, deadly pins and needles, and menacing threads that could trip or tie you up.

Our first business venture was in 1977 and involved the women in my family. It was called “Elsa & Company.” There were seven of us: Gram Elsa; mom Nancy Duffy; three aunts, Jan Nations, Linda Hendricks, and Wendy Atterberry; my sister Krys Kirkpatrick and me. None of us had any experience in operating a retail store but we were fearless, had faith in numbers and learned as we went along. We closed it in 1984, our hearts not being in it anymore.

In February of 1986 Krys and I gathered our kids together and spent our days at her kitchen table sewing. We had lost our little brother Tony in a boat accident the month before and the only way we knew how to deal with the pain was to be together. So we sewed. That April we took these little plush bunnies we had been making to the local street fair, Tulip Festival. Twenty two years later “Bunnies By The Bay” is still going strong. We now design, produce and distribute a baby gift line. We sell to the U.S. and Canadian market mostly but have now set up a Hong Kong showroom and will do our first show in Tokyo, Japan this July.

I married my high school sweetheart Doug 32 years ago and we have three single sons, Nate, Jerad and Riley, one adorable grandson Grady and a Beagle named Bee. I’d like Anacortes to be known for: Beautiful waterfront dining, sand in your toes, salt-water-in-your-nose walking trails, fresh-fish-right-off-the-boat markets, hear-the-water lodging and island-hopping shopping. Wouldn’t that be wonderful?
Anacortes Sister Cities Association Doyle Geer Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 28 to play in the annual Anacortes Sister Cities Association (ASCA) Doyle Geer Golf Tournament at Similk Beach Golf Course in Anacortes. This is always a fun, exciting, and well-attended event and is ASCA’s major fund-raising event. The Kisakata, Japan student exchange and other Sister Cities programs receive funding from the tournament.

The Grand Prize for the winning team is a round of golf at Similk Beach and a $50 gift certificate for each team member at Flounder Bay Restaurant. A new 2008 Honda from Sims Honda will be one of the Hole-In-One prizes. In addition, there is a $5,000 prize for a new putting contest.

If you have any questions regarding the ASCA Doyle Geer Golf Tournament or about the Anacortes Sister Cities Association, contact Duane Clark by phone (360) 293-8088 or email (dclark@capsantecourt.com).

Welcome, Krystyna!

Krystyna Lijek, a student at St. John’s University in New York City will be our intern this summer. Krystyna is majoring in international marketing and hopes to pursue a career in marketing or advertising for a global company, which will take her abroad. This summer, she will take the lead in securing volunteers for the Jazz Festival, assisting in the layout of Shipwreck Day and has already gotten the Waterfront Festival under her belt.

TOURISM MARKETING

by Steve Berentson

The month of May was all about bringing folks to Anacortes to enjoy the Waterfront Festival and Trawler Fest at Cap Sante Boat Haven, an increasingly attractive tourist attraction in our community.

Now that the tourism marketing “pump” has been primed by a spring campaign including these events and a 60-second spot on KOMO-TV, we continue to tout Fidalgo Island attributes, including wonderful weather and water, water everywhere. Throughout the region we continue to wave the Anacortes flag in tourism publications including the Anacortes American’s San Juanderer, MacGregor/Yellow Book’s Newcomer and Visitors Guides and the Springtide of the San Juans.

As the stream of tourists through our Visitor Information Center (VIC) grows, we also prepare to offer a marketing tool inspired by a past campaign.

At the recommendation of our VIC volunteers, we will print postcards to be distributed free so our guests can send news of Anacortes to family and friends.

Four distinct postcards will feature photographs of the Mt. Erie view, the Cap Sante view, Mt. Baker from Seafarers’ Memorial Park and the view of Skyline from Washington Park. A Chamber of Commerce “business card” will detach from the postcard so our guests retain information including the Chamber Web site address.

On another front, we continue to pursue co-op advertising relationships with regional and national publications. First among what we hope to be several co-op options is a 25 percent discount package with two Canadian newspapers: The Province and the Vancouver Sun. Call 293-7911 for details about this important new membership value.

Empress of The North

The Empress of the North, a luxury paddle-wheeler operated by V. Ships Leisure USA out of Portland OR, visited Anacortes on Tuesday, April 29. It plans to return in early October.
Ann Giboney: Volunteer Extraordinaire

One of our valued volunteers in the Visitor Information Center was honored this past month as an Anacortes Red Cross Real Hero.

A member and past president of the Island Hospital Senior Advisory Board, Giboney currently serves as president of the Island Hospital Auxiliary. She formed the Alzheimer’s support group and conducts classes to assist caregivers in managing their individual situations and coping with related stress. She founded and oversees Project Lifesaver, a 24/7 monitoring service for people at risk of wandering. She also serves on the Skagit Adult Day Care board of directors.

Giboney creates handmade tray favors for all Island Hospital inpatients when holidays or special seasons roll around, and her efforts with the auxiliary bring Lifeline services to 15 subscribers who would otherwise be without the vital service.

In 2007, Giboney was honored as a “Woman of Distinction” by Soroptimist International of Anacortes. Thanks Ann, for all you do!

Welcome to Anacortes!

Elisabeth and Tom Freeland celebrate the opening of their new restaurant — Captain Jack’s, a fun, new pirate-themed bistro. Mayor Maxwell used a sword to cut the rope ribbon.

City Councilman Brian Geer and Mayor Dean Maxwell helped Carolyn Watson, owner of Core Kinetics, commemorate the opening of her new pilates studio.

Port Commissioner Bill Short and City Councilman Bill Turner helped Mayor Maxwell mark the grand re-opening of Tracy’s Furniture. Bob Tracy (third from right) remodeled his building at 1920 Commercial Ave.

SUPPORt Our LOCAL ARTISTS

Mark your calendars for the Chamber of Commerce Summer Artwalk on Friday, June 6 from 6 - 9pm, and Saturday, June 7 from 10 am to 5pm. Many downtown merchants will show the work of local artists. There will be paintings, sculptures, jewelry, photography and other grand creations to fulfill your needs. Come shop for graduation and seasonal gifts and enjoy the event. Be sure to check the Anacortes American and Clamdigger for merchant listings. Friday night’s event will be in conjunction with the First Friday Gallery walk.

Shipwreck Day

The 28th Annual Shipwreck day is set for Saturday, July 19, 8 am – 4 pm. Returning vendors are able to ensure placement in last year’s spaces only through June 2nd, after that spaces are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are a vendor who wishes to return, or a downtown merchant that desires to use the space in front of your storefront, please contact the Anacortes Chamber at 293-7911.

Shipwreck Day is a popular event that fills most of the downtown city blocks with plunder offered by businesses, antique stores, families and organizations. Proceeds pay for beautification projects in Anacortes.

Anacortes Garden Fair

The Anacortes Garden Fair was held on May 10 at the Majestic Inn and Spa. The volunteers who organize the event are the keepers of the street side planter pots, and proceeds from the event help to purchase and maintain the pots. The spring planting was completed on Friday, May 23.
Thank you to the following chamber members for donating to the April Business Connections Lunch:

• AIA/Impression Maker
• Chriswood Chiropractic
• EDASC
• Homeplace, Oak Harbor
• Majestic Inn & Spa
• Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
• Novus Auto Glass
• Opulence Hair Salon
• Read Me A Story
• Tracy’s Furniture
• Viking Moving Services, Inc.

Thank you to the following members for donating to the April Business After Hours:

• Airporter Shuttle / Bellair Charters
• All Star Excavating
• American Red Cross
• Ana-Cross Stitch Inc
• Anacortes Printing/Clamdigger
• Berentson Public Relations
• Catchmore Charters
• Chapman University
• Curtis Payne Insurance & Financial Services
• Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing
• Island Express Charters, Inc.
• Jahn, Steve
• James T. Hunter & Associates
• Kiwani Sunrisers
• Seaside Autobody & Accessories
• Soroptimist International of Anacortes
• Soroptimist International of Fidalgo Island
• Tourism Victoria
• The Troll House

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Thank you to the following members for donating to the April Business After Hours:

• Ana-Cross Stitch
• Bayside Sweets ’n Treats
• Captain Jack’s
• Chandler’s Square Retirement Community
• Earth Bound Used Books
• Elisabeth’s Cottage by the Sea
• Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
• Star Bar
• Watermark Book Co.

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2000 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
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Email: presidentsoffice@skagit.edu
www.skagit.edu
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VIC VOLUNTEER: LOU BERGESON

The photo says it all...I LOVE Anacortes and volunteering at the Anacortes Visitor Information Center!

I am a native of Anacortes, but grew up mainly in Sedro-Wolley and Big Lake, graduating from SWHS, class of ’52. I was assistance cook at Max Dales, then an operator for West Coast Telephone when I turned 18. In 1956 I was employed by Shell Oil as their receptionist and switchboard operator. Happily living in Anacortes again, I was even chosen as an Anacortes Mariners Pageant Princess.

I met Dick, also a Shell Oil employee, and we were married in 1961. We lived West of Mount Vernon, raised two children, and had enough land to enjoy gardening, dogs and horses. Our son has three boys; the oldest just made us great-grandparents, with the birth of his son. Our daughter is so like me, loves all animals. I have fond memories of riding my Arabian gelding around the tulip fields and along the Skagit River. In 1972 I became a 4-H Leader, instructing and judging.

In 1981 we purchased our Anacortes home, which overlooks Similk Bay. I became a volunteer at the VIC in 1995, and love being a part of our Chamber/VIC volunteer family. It gives me a deep feeling of pride, as I meet visitors and tell them about our island and all it has to offer. Life is good!

My other interests are painting, photography, singing, dancing, travel and cruising.

Stephen Berentson Public Relations celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The Anacortes based business was established in 1983 as Berentson transitioned from a career in journalism that began after graduation from WSU in 1975. His newspaper career included stints at the Whidbey News-Times, the Skagit Valley Herald and the Skagit Argus. Initial public relations projects included the first promotional brochures for the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival and Rozengaarde. Berentson’s current clients include the Port of Anacortes and the Chamber of Commerce. A satellite business is www.AnacortesToday.com, a Web site that features an ever-growing collection of photographs of the greater Anacortes area.

Cedar Creek Lumber of Burlington is pleased to announce their four-year anniversary this June. Cedar Creek Lumber supplies quality building materials to contractors as well as individual homeowners. Products include siding, shingles, shakes, paneling, heavy timbers, decking, fencing, and dimensional boards in Cedar, as well as other domestic and exotic woods. Before your next project be sure to visit Cedar Creek Lumber, open Monday through Friday, 950 “B” Fountain Street, Burlington, WA. (360) 757.6343 or www.cclumber.com

Childs Memorial Garden

Chamber Member John Childs of Simply Yards recently passed away. During the many years that John owned his business, he was instrumental in a number of important projects.

His exceptional landscaping talents complimented the natural beauty of our island and his generosity provided a number of public spaces with special gardens.

In honor of his memory, a John Childs Memorial Garden is planned (location and scope to be determined).

Any members wishing to donate may send payment to:

Anacortes Parks Foundation
John Childs Memorial Garden
P. O. Box 1902
Anacortes, WA 98221
VIC Statistics

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!
Visitor Information Center

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Four New Murals

On May 3rd, brand new Chamber member, Bill Mitchell, unveiled four new murals downtown. Located on the garage next to How it Works, this mural depicts Robert Sund, the Ish River Poet.

Enjoy the Beauty

The Beautification Committee of the Chamber spent May 10 hanging flower baskets on lampposts downtown with the help of the Wrestlers for Life. The Chamber is proud to fund the baskets, which add so much to the beauty of our town.