Calendar

MAY 2004

MAY 1-2
Garden Art Fair, at the Depot 293-3663

MAY 6
Chamber Ambassador Lunch, 11:45 a.m.

MAY 7
First Friday Downtown Artwalk

MAY 13
President’s Luncheon, noon, 293-7911

MAY 18
Chamber Board; executive at 3 p.m.; combined at 3:45 p.m.

MAY 21
Waterfront Festival Kick-Off Dinner, info: 293-7911

MAY 22
Garden Fair / Silent Auction info: Nancy, 293-7911

MAY 22-23
Anacortes Waterfront Festival, 293-7911

MAY 25
VIC meeting

MAY 27
Small Business Awards dinner, 293-7911

It’s Anacortes Waterfront Festival Time Again!

Get ready to welcome the crowds as Anacortes celebrates its heritage as the boating capitol of the Northwest with the 14th annual Anacortes Waterfront Festival May 22 and 23 starting at 10 a.m. each day.

The night before the Festival is the popular Kick-Off Dinner held at the Port Warehouse at 6 p.m. This year’s entertainment features the Shifty Sailors serenading guests with sea shanties from the dock. Laurie Gere of Gere-a-Deli will be catering the dinner.

The swing band, Dillinger’s Clambake, will provide music for dancing. Tickets are available for $45 per person or $340 for a table of eight, and can be reserved by calling EDASC at 336-6114.

This year’s Festival again features the popular Pirate’s Parrot show sponsored by the Fidalgo Island Rotary Club, who thrilled audiences last year with his educational aviary shows and demonstrations.

Other children’s activities include a magician, boat building, face painting, fish

Continued page 3

DDA Signage Unveiling at President’s Luncheon

The long-anticipated unveiling of the signage art that will be displayed on the community downtown arch, welcoming residents and visitors alike to the historic area is finally at hand.

Be a part of this great event and join Chamber President Randy Burgess for the President’s Luncheon on Thursday, May 13 at noon as he welcomes Destination Downtown Anacortes board members, and specifically, DDA design committee Chair and Vice-Chair Cory Hunter and Dave Cortelyou.

Cory and Dave will give a special presentation on the arch project discussing the history and motivation, present the winning sign design and show a three-dimensional computer generated perspective of various approaches to the soon-to-be downtown icon.

The May luncheon is sponsored by the Anacortes American and will take place at the Salvation Army, 3001 R Avenue, Anacortes. The cost is $15 and is open to the community as well as Chamber members.

You must R.S.V.P. to secure your reservation for the luncheon. Please R.S.V.P. to the Chamber at info@anacortes.org, or call 293-7911.

Please indicate at the time of your reservation if you prefer the vegetarian alternative. (If you need to cancel your reservation you must do so at least 24 hours in advance to avoid full billing.)
**FROM THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR**

**Strong Chamber Board Works For Members and Community**

This month I thought I would dedicate this column to our Chamber board of directors who generously volunteer their time and expertise to help guide the Chamber and ensure it meets its mission of improving the business and community life of Anacortes.

Under the direction of Board President Randy Burgess, each board member is committed to a specific committee or task force as well the overall policy and decision making process of the Chamber.

A review of names on the back page of this publication will show the strength of our current board.

Amazingly, many people in the community are unaware of the activities and responsibilities of the Chamber and are quite impressed when they learn of them. An invitation to participate on the board is a great opportunity to get involved in the shaping of the community and ensure the voice of business is heard. It is also a sign of professional respect from peers.

I recall my first invitation to serve as a board member in the Kailua, Hawai’i Chamber. I was one of those who did not fully understand the goings on at the Chamber but after just a few months, I was hooked. My next involvement was in Kirkland as an active Chamber member while managing a busy catering company. When the opportunity arose to work as a member of the Kirkland Chamber staff, I couldn’t refuse. From there of course, I came to Anacortes and have discovered a wonderful community to be involved with and a very rewarding career.

I share my experience simply to entice others to get involved and experience for themselves the satisfaction that comes from Chamber and community involvement.

If you find yourself interested in getting more involved in Chamber activities, please contact Randy Burgess or myself and we will find an opportunity for you.

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**Banners Up and Flying**

Mike Young of the Chamber’s beautification committee replaces the winter lamp pole banners with those depicting a spring/summer theme.
Waterfront Festival, continued from page 1

The Waterfront Festival posters by artist Jennifer Bowman can be purchased at the Chamber for $10. Festival T-shirts are also available at the Chamber.

The chamber is again sponsoring festival Fridays in Anacortes by encouraging businesses to get T-shirts and have employees wear them every Friday, beginning April 30, to help promote the festival to all the visitors coming into town during the next month.

Waterfront Festival Sponsors

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board and staff wish to express heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors of the 2004 Anacortes Waterfront Festival.

**POSTER**
Shell Puget Sound Refinery

**ADMIRALTY**
Port of Anacortes
Skagit Valley Herald

**ONE-DAY VENUE SPONSOR**
KAPS Radio
KBRC Radio

**VICE ADMIRALTY**
Cap Sante Marine, Ltd
Dakota Creek Industries Inc
Fidalgo Island Rotary
Island Hospital
March Point Cogeneration Co.
Tesoros Refining & Marketing Co.
Trident Seafoods, Corporation

**COMMODORE**
Anacortes American
KLKI Radio
First American Title Company
Pacific Party Canopies, Inc.

Puget Sound Energy
Skagit State Bank

**CAPTAIN**
Anacortes Interiors
Cap Sante Court
Gere-A-Deli
Horizon Bank
MacGregor Publishing Company
Oasys, Inc
Quantum Construction Inc.
Scott Richards Insurance, Inc.
Sebo’s Do-It-Center
Skipper Cress Yacht Sales & Services, Inc.

**SKIPPER**
Anaco Bay Inn
Anaco Inn
Anacortes Noon Kiwanis
Calico Cupboard Cafe & Bakery
Chandler’s Square Retirement Community
Encore
Fidalgo Country Inn
Guemes Island Resort
Marine Supply & Hardware
Mystic Sea Charters
Re/Max Realty Associates
Simmonds Glass
Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Saturday, April 17 was DDA’s Clean up Downtown day.

A huge thank-you to Boy Scout Troops 81 and 84 for volunteering as well as the Kiwanis Sunrisers.

Chris Graham from the city came with the garbage truck indicating high hopes from our group for lots of loot. The group did a great job covering “O”, “Q” and Commercial Avenue from 11th Street to 5th including the alleys. Although we picked up quite a bit, it was amazing to see how clean we keep our downtown.

Thank you to all those businesses that do keep things clean around their storefronts. Another big thank you to Randy and Pat at Ace Hardware for donating the garbage bags and gloves as well as to Domino’s Pizza for providing all the volunteers with lunch.

Our next event to help spruce up our downtown is with planters. May 22 is the first Garden Fair to be held in the Majestic hotel courtyard. This event is being held to raise funds for the purchase of the planters as well as filling them. Individuals and businesses are donating all items for sale at this event. There will even be a silent auction. Donations can be made at the Chamber office, please be sure to indicate what the donation is for. For more information, please see Jo and Wally at the Star Bar or Nancy at the Chamber.

Finally, I highly recommend attending this month’s President’s Luncheon on May 13, as this will be the day our Arch Committee shows Anacortes the much-anticipated final Arch design. You can sign up for this lunch by calling the chamber at 293-7911.
Anacortes Small Business Nominees Announced

The nominating committee for the Anacortes Chamber has made their selections for the Small Business Administration’s annual Small Business of the Year awards.

There were many outstanding Anacortes businesses suggested but, in conformity with the rules, only four per community could be nominated.

Those four for Anacortes are Quantum Construction - Beth and Dan Folkers, Anacortes Ace Hardware – Randy Burgess and Pat Strand, Frontier Building Supply – Terry and Mike Johnson and Anacortes Yacht Charters – Dan and Sherrie Meyer.

Congratulations are certainly in order for these fine businesses. They will be joined by nominees from the other six Chambers in Skagit County at a dinner banquet on May 27 at Skagit Valley College where local winners will be announced and then compete for the county award. The county winner will then compete against winners from other counties and ultimately, national nominees.

Please join fellow Chamber members from Anacortes, LaConner, Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Wooley, Concrete and Marblemount to honor all the nominees from Skagit Country and enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and networking with other businesses. $12 tickets for the event are limited and are available at the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, 293-7911.

Ambassadors Club Corner

Looking for a great way to expand your contact list and have fun too? Join the Ambassadors Club! Every month, Chamber Ambassadors help meet, greet and introduce new and existing members to each other and to the benefits of Chamber membership. If you have been to a Business After Hours, President’s Luncheon, Business Connections Breakfast or a Ribbon Cutting event, you have likely met one of our fabulous Chamber Ambassadors. They are the ones who ensure everyone has a name badge, collect the business cards for door prize drawings, make introductions and help everything run smoothly. Ambassadors are also quick to stop into new businesses in Anacortes and introduce the Chamber to the owners. Their volunteer efforts are very much appreciated by the Chamber staff and board, and by other Chamber members.

Being an Ambassador offers its share of benefits as well. Being on the front line at Chamber events and in the community means networking opportunities are abundant. Members get to know our Ambassadors and their particular businesses well, which means relationship building and business promotion for the Ambassador.

If you are interested in learning how to become a Chamber Ambassador, contact me, Steve Daly, your Ambassadors Club chairman, at Edward Jones financial services, 293-8262 or call the Chamber office, 293-7911. — Steve Daly
Left Bank Antiques

Celebrating their 20th anniversary, Left Bank Antiques is “the antique shop you always hoped to find.”

Left Bank Antiques started importing antiques from Europe to Anacortes in 1984. The first shop was at 402 Commercial Avenue in the old Bank Building.

By 1986 owners Ron and Donna Radtke had outgrown the space so they moved to 820 Commercial. In 1995 they bought the Nazarene Church on the corner of 19th & Commercial Avenue, and began the long process of turning it into a wonderful place to sell antiques.

Ron and Donna buy antiques all over the U.S. and from right here in Anacortes.

For years they have traveled to Europe twice a year roaming through quaint village shops, antiques fayres, flea markets, private homes and barns in search of objects that make this shop unique. With the present interest in landscape and gardens they have sought out architectural fragments and garden antiques from England & France. They have huge 40-ft containers to fill so no piece is too large or too small from oversize cupboards to thimbles & buttons.

There are good reasons they have won Anacortes American’s “Best of Anacortes” for the past 10 years and have been featured in Romantic Home Magazine, Country Living Magazine, and Better Homes & Garden’s “Garden Style” Book as well as a feature story in West Coast trade magazine “Old Stuff”.

Donnas’ lifelong passion for interior design and Ron’s talent for display makes time spent in the large converted church an experience. They keep a sharp eye on current trends. One criteria when buying a piece is thinking how it can be used in a unique way, whether it be a nostalgic collectible, interesting architectural fragment, or rare antique.

Besides welcoming tourists they have regular customers who travel from far away states to spend an afternoon in the shop. “Everyday we are told how unusual our shop is” states Helen Smith, a long time employee.

Our April Sponsors:

President’s Luncheon
Luncheon Sponsor:
Cyber One Mortgage
Door Prizes:
RiverCity Screenprinting, Inc
Biz Point Communications
Cyber One Mortgage
KLKI Radio
Unicom
Island Adventures Whale Watching

Business After Hours
Host: San Juan Airlines
Door Prizes:
Towner Press
KLKI Radio
Cascade Natural Gas
San Juan Wineries
San Juan Airlines

Business Connections Breakfast
Door Prizes:
AllData Shredding
Flounder Bay Café

Thanks also to…

Mike Young for changing the seasonal lamp pole banners from winter to spring; Waterfront Festival Chairman Mike Keller and committee members Vic Childs, Capt. Ken Clark, Dale Fowler, Jan MacPherson, Ken Markel, Sandy Meissner, Dr. Robert Prins, Jennifer Ranz, Betsy Rogers, Barbara Ritts, Pat Walsh, T.K. Wegg and Dave Overton for their tireless effort and dedication to the annual festival.
Anacortes Tourism Featured in 30-Second Commercials

Once again this year the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce was selected for matching grant funds from Belo, a corporation that owns newspapers, Web sites and television stations including NWCN and King 5.

With the dollar-for-dollar matching grant, a $12,500 investment by the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce will finance a $25,000 television advertising campaign.

Belo, one of the nation’s largest media corporations, operates news and information franchises in regions including Texas, the Northwest, the Southwest, Rhode Island and the Mid-Atlantic region. The company owns 19 television stations and owns or operates 10 cable news channels.

The Anacortes tourism marketing campaign is already under way, and will continue into late summer. Watch for 30-second advertisements on KING 5 and Northwest Cable News featuring area information and beautiful images of Anacortes including water, ferries, forests, shops and festivals.

Specific programs where the ads will appear include Northwest Backroads, Evening Magazine, Gardening with Cisco, King 5 Morning News, NWCN Morning News, Sunday Sports Rotator and the sitcom Ellen. Later in the year, ads promoting the Anacortes Jazz Festival will run on the two Belo stations.

Jim Thompson, a former cable videographer, who now teaches at Anacortes High School, shot the digital scenes in the commercial over a period of several months.

Birds Fly, Bucks Flow As Bird Watching Grows In Our Area


The National Audubon Society now sponsors the world’s biggest “Birdathon” bird-watching competition annually, this year from April 18 to May 15. Washington, the American Goldfinch State, has an exceptionally high number of species of birds, with one for every day of the year (365).

Even a common loon can see that bird-watching is big business in these parts, where more than 1 in 3 Washington residents takes bird-watching seriously — the fourth-highest participation rate in the nation. They’re not all seniors or retired folks, either. Many show the flicker of youth.

The new flock of birders carry digital cameras, pocket-sized high-powered binoculars and “lists” of bird sightings in their Palm Pilots.

The average bird-watcher in Washington State is a baby boomer, educated, with an income of more than $30,000. And 72 percent of birders are married meaning they travel and spend most often in pairs.

Anacortes and the Skagit Valley offer exceptional bird watching opportunities, which translates to exceptional business opportunities for those entrepreneurial enough to tap into that market in some way.

The Chamber has recently added a ‘Watchable Wildlife’ element to the www.Anacortes.org web site featuring bird-watching, among other things, and plans are to continue to market to this affluent crowd of travelers.
Destination Downtown Anacortes Organizes Spring Clean-Up

DDA staff and board members get help cleaning up the downtown area from the City of Anacortes, Ace Hardware and the Boy Scouts from troops 81 & 84. Special thanks to Domino’s Pizza who fed the hungry volunteers after the job was done.

Membership Renewals

- Airporter Shuttle / Bellair Charters
- Anacortes Kiwanis Sunrisers
- Anacortes Lions Club
- Anacortes U-Save Auto Rental
- Ana-Cross Stitch
- Anne Martin McCool Studio/Gallery
- Bunnies by the Bay
- Catchmore Charters
- Chapman University
- Harry McGrath, Jr.
- Kiwanis Noon Club
- Let Sara Do It
- RE/MAX Realty Associates
- Red Salon
- Skagit Valley College Small Business Resource Center
- Soroptimist International
- Sunset Beach B & B
- Ted & Leila Meyer

CHAMBER MEMBER NEWS NOTES

- Oak Harbor Custom Flooring has a new location: 61650 State Route 20 in Oak Harbor across from Safeway Plaza.

- Here’s the May music calendar for the Rockfish Grill:
  - Music runs Wed 6-9 p.m.; Fri and Sat, 9 p.m. – Midnight
  - 5/5 - Jazz Invitational with Frankly Moanin’
  - 5/7 - Gallery Walk with Annieville Blues
  - 5/8 - Matt Jorgensen and 451
  - 5/12 - The Duntons
  - 5/15 - Chris Stevens Trio
  - 5/19 - Jacob Navarro and Bill Cook
  - 5/20 - CD Release: Brandon Vance and Mark Minkler
  - 5/21 - Jerry Miller
  - 5/22 - Janie Cribbs Band
  - 5/26 - Korbey Lenker
  - 5/29 - Steve Bailey and Crossroads

- This month’s First Friday Gallery Art Walk takes place May 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. These seven merchants will be open until 9 p.m.:
  - Anne Martin McCool Gallery  711 Commercial Ave.

Jerry Miller will appear at the Rockfish Grill on May 21.

Insights Gallery  516 Commercial Ave.
Adrift  510 Commercial Ave.
Scott Milo Gallery  420 Commercial Ave.
Star Bar Café  416 ½ Commercial Ave.
Gallery at the Depot  611 R Ave
Bowman Gallery  801 5th Street
Recently the Chamber took some heat for someone else’s mis-use of the message banner hanging over Commercial at 29th Street. By now, it should be obvious that the Chamber has not controlled said banner for twenty or more years. There’s an OPPORTUNITY out there for Chamber Members, families and friends to make a difference in something we CAN control, AND something we can proudly take credit for.

Call the Chamber office at 293-7911 and ask to have your name added to the list of volunteers willing to put in a couple of hours on an occasional Saturday over the next two years (minimum commitment), cleaning trash along Hiway 20, eastbound between Commercial and Sharpe’s Corner. Turnout to help our community put on a happy face with a little positive effort.

Let’s overcome the negative of recent days with something that benefits everyone and costs nothing.

Mike Keller, Treasurer, Anacortes Chamber of Commerce