Prepare to ring in holiday season as schedule of events unfolds

It’s hard to believe, but it is that time of year again when we start listening for the sounds of those sleigh bells jing, jing, jangling.

As is the case each year here in Anacortes, there are many special events and Holiday happenings planned to help spread the magic and cheer of the season. Here are just a few things to put on your calendar:

- Free horse and carriage rides downtown - Saturdays, November 26, December 3, 10 & 17 from noon until 4:30 p.m.
- The Lighting of Causland Park - Friday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. with Santa arriving at 7:30 p.m.
- Community Tree Lighting at the Chamber - Friday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. with entertainment, Santa and more!
- Winter Art Walk - Friday, December 2, 5 - 9 p.m. & Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Lions Club Christmas Parade - Saturday, December 3, 11 a.m., downtown.
- Anacortes Holiday Boat Parade - Saturday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

Look for information and events in the December newsletter and at www.Anacortes.org.

Free horse and carriage rides in downtown Anacortes begin Saturday, November 26.

Chamber of Commerce President Pam Allen will play a dual role as hostess of this month’s Business After Hours event at Anaco Bay Inn.

Anaco Bay Inn, owned by Pam and husband Tom, will host the November 17 event.

The inn is billed as “an intimate European-style inn” and “an elegant and affordable island stop to relax and stay in spacious and comfortable rooms.”

Anaco Bay Inn features 18 guest rooms plus four 2-bedroom, fully furnished ‘condo-style’ villa units and a continental breakfast. Amenities include Hot Tub spa room with a view of Mt. Baker; guest laundry facilities, a small conference room and a library.

Continued on page two
Last call to offer Member 2 Member discount

As detailed in the July 2005 Anacortes Communicator, the Anacortes Chamber is launching a new member to member discount program to complement its ‘shop members first’ philosophy and campaign.

Due to production issues, the program launch was delayed, but will now happen in January of 2006, allowing any additional Chamber members who desire to offer a discount to other members and their employees the chance to do so.

Here is how it works: The discount offers will appear in a new Chamber membership directory that will be sent to all Chamber members in January, as well as on the Chamber’s website. Chamber members wishing to participate will sign up to offer a specific discount to other chamber members and their employees for a period of six months.

After the six month period expires, a new directory and set of discount offers will be published. Member businesses will receive membership discount cards for each employee valid for the six month period. New discount cards will be issued each time a new directory and discount program takes effect.

The cost to offer a discount in the program is only $50 for the six month period. This includes a one fifth page listing in the directory as well as a listing on the Chamber website with details of the specific discount being offered by that member. The level of discount offered is up to the member making the offer. This is a great way to reach thousands of Chamber member employees and drive additional customers to your doors. All for less than $10 per month!

Chamber membership already qualifies you to receive a discount card to take advantage of the discounts. There is no additional cost, but there will be some significant savings! Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to sign up today!

Take advantage of the extended opportunity to participate in the Member 2 Member discount program.

Televised forums held at City Hall, Brodniak Auditorium

Chamber partners with others to spotlight local candidates in series of public events

Your Chamber of Commerce played an important role during one of the busiest campaign seasons in recent history, partnering with a number of local groups and organizations to provide opportunities for voters to learn more about candidates.

Chamber of Commerce President Pam Allen extends thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors to campaign forum partners including the Association of University Women, The League of Women Voters, the Skagit Valley Herald, the Anacortes American, KLKI Am Radio and the Anacortes School District.

“It was our pleasure,” said Allen, “to partner in these efforts to provide not only business people, but the general population of Anacortes with these opportunities to see and hear from the candidates who would be their leaders. We appreciate the input of those who contributed their time and talents.”

Thanks to each of these organizations, and to the City of Anacortes, candidates were given the opportunity to talk to the public about themselves and their visions for their prospective offices. In addition, representatives of the business community and the community at large were allowed to ask questions of the candidates.

Such public sessions are important not only for those who are able to attend, but for their “ripple” impact as well. Each forum was televised and broadcast on Channel 10, and each forum was covered extensively by reporters from local newspapers and radio stations.

Those who watch local letters to the editor discovered that many letters were inspired by candidate statements or observations about statements made at the public sessions.

In addition to Chamber President Allen, who took a leadership role in several forums, Chamber Director Michael Broome served as moderator in one of the forums at City Hall. Also taking part as moderators were Board members Chris Borgen, Superintendent of the Anacortes School District, and Randy Burgess, past president; Jean Andrich and Robin Pestorino played important volunteer roles in candidate sessions, too.

Anaco Bay Inn

Continued from page 1

As always, this Business After Hours event will feature door prizes and the opportunity for networking with fellow business people, so don’t forget your business cards.

RSVP today for the November 17 Business After Hours at The Anaco Bay Inn, 1916 33rd Street, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to get your name on a list that expedites preparation of hors d’oeuvres and beverages.
Join your Chamber friends in helping to welcome one of Anacortes’ newest businesses to town at a fun open house and ribbon-cutting event on Friday, November 4 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. “The Beach House”, located at 2216 Commercial Avenue, is owned and operated by Cheryl Kuhn (former director of the Chamber’s DDA division) and her husband Jordan. The new store will feature a variety of products including household goods, kitchenware, picnic and beach supplies, furniture, clothing, garden decor and much more.

Mayor Dean Maxwell will be on hand to cut the ribbon at 6:00 p.m. Light hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served and you might even win a door prize too! Please R.s.v.p. to the Chamber at 293-7911 or info@anacortes.org.

**Ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 4 at The Beach House**

**Featured Business**

Artsmart, a family-owned business since 1997, is your fine art solution specialists from creation to presentation. It is actually three businesses in one. We do creative custom framing, giclée art reproduction, and in June of this year, we added a new gallery as well. The gallery was opened in conjunction with our move to 714 Commercial Ave. (formerly on the corner of 7th and ‘O’ Avenue).

We are proud to display the work of a number of local artists, and also carry a beautiful assortment of 3-D art including gourds by Claudia Dussault-Howell, metal work and glass from Jeff Howell (both of whom are also family members!), and unique pottery.

We enjoy being creative, thinking out of the box, and doing the unusual. For example, we’ve just started a series of new prints on satin cloth, with a very unique hanging system we invented just for this project.

Come visit our new gallery for all of your home decorating needs. Our new gallery manager, Tracy Rodgers, is quite talented and is sure to lead you in just the right direction. Not sure of what you need for that special area? We’d be happy to do an in-home consultation.

This holiday season, give the gift of style. Give the gift of art.

**AHS food drive, Salvation Army kettle kickoff Nov. 19**

Look for lots of activity at KLKI AM Radio station on Saturday, November 19 as Anacortes High School students partner with the Salvation Army Anacortes Corps to kick off the holiday season with a community-wide food drive.

Student athletes from AHS conduct a food drive with the start of each sport season, and the winter season coincides with an annual effort to provide holiday food baskets for the less fortunate in our community. In addition to the food drive, the Salvation Army will officially kick off its annual Red Kettle Campaign, a month-long campaign that puts red kettles and bell-ringers in front of many Anacortes businesses. Please consider “partnering” with students and food banks as preparations are made to brighten the 2006 holiday for those in need.
Viking Moving Services for providing manpower and a truck to take down the lamp pole flower baskets and delivering them to the greenhouse in preparation for next year’s planting.

Thanks to those who donated door prizes at the October Business After Hours. Donors included:
Frank & Priscilla Michaud, The Store Express Personnel
AllData Shredding
Bearce Design
KLKI Radio
American Cancer Association
Anacortes Soo Bahk Do
Art Smart
Piston Service/ Parts Plus
Scott Richards Insurance
Upstage Boutique & Men’s Wear
Edward Jones/ Steve Daly
Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Preparations already under way for next year’s tourism season

We are now beyond the traditional tourist season, but preparations are already under way for next year, starting with our participation in the Governor’s 2005 Tourism Summit later this month.

Featured guests include Governor Christine Gregoire and Secretary Gale Norton, U.S. Department of the Interior. Presentation topics include: Washington State Tourism Strategic Blueprint Update; Tourism Marketing Workshops; Packaged Travel; the Internet; 2010 Olympics.

Representing the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce will be Executive Director Michael Broome and Tourism Marketing Director Steve Berentson.

This event, scheduled November 17 and 18 in Seattle, will also offer insights including review of travel trends and a peek at the state’s “strategic blueprint” for tourism (including improvements to the state tourism site at www.experiencewashington.com).

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce will also partner with San Juan Islands and Whidbey/Camano islands visitor bureaus to market this area with a booth under the banner: “Washington’s Treasure Islands.”

On a related note, the state recently published a 2004 County Travel Impact Study prepared by Dean Runyan Associates. The purpose of the study was “to document the economic significance of the travel industry in the 39 counties of Washington State from 1991-2004.”

The study shows the level of travel spending by those traveling to and through the state and the impact this spending has on the economy in terms of earnings, employment and tax revenue.

Some of these numbers for Skagit County are presented on this page.

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<th>Travel Impacts, Skagit County, 2004*</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travel Spending</strong></td>
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*Dean Runyan and Associates, 2004 study for State Tourism

U.S. Travel Trends

While leisure travel volume in the U.S. is expected to decline 1.6 percent this fall compared to fall 2004, it is still very strong and remains at one of its highest points, according to the Travel Industry Association of America (TIAA).

TIAA reports that Americans plan to take slightly more than 225 million leisure person-trips in fall 2005. A person-trip is one person on one trip traveling 50 miles or more from home, one way.

Travel Spending, Skagit County, 1999 - 2004

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<tr>
<th>Skagit Co.</th>
<th>1999</th>
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<td>159.7</td>
<td>174.2</td>
<td>171.3</td>
<td>167.4</td>
<td>178.7</td>
<td>191.0</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Annual change is the average annual percentage change for 1991-2004.

See color version at www.anacortes.org
Commemorative shirts from the 2005 Anacortes Jazz Festival are still available at the Chamber of Commerce office. Visit the office today to shop one of these commemorative gems. Men’s and ladies’ short-sleeved T’s are $15; long sleeve T’s, $19; polo shirts, $25; sweatshirts, $25.

Board agrees shoulder season Jazz Festival will be a ‘regular’

Prompted by the success of the 2nd Annual Anacortes Jazz Festival, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has agreed to make the festival a permanent part of the Chamber’s events calendar.

The Anacortes Jazz Festival has earned regional notoriety,” said Jazz Festival Committee Chairman Bill Berry. “We are now in the process of converting the event from an Anacortes festival to a full-fledged jazz festival.”

An important indicator of the festival’s success is the fact that 12 sponsors from 2005 have already indicated their desire to participate again next year.

More sponsors are welcome. For information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 293-7911.

Jazz Festival shirts available at Chamber

2005 Jazz Festival headliner Ernestine Anderson (center) visits with Festival Committee Chairman Bill Berry (left) and Chamber Director Michael Broome.

AnacortesToday.com

An Internet presence is an important investment in your company’s future. Purchase a banner ad on this colorful, vibrant web site, updated on a daily basis by local writer and photographer Steve Berentson. Local images are also available. Call 293-4852 for details.

“Pretty pictures” command attention

Business Connections

Fast-paced networking event scheduled Nov. 10

There’s no better time than the holiday shopping season to network with your peers, telling your story and learning more about your neighbors’ businesses!

Make plans now to bring a friend, co-worker or employee to the November 10 Business Connections Breakfast, a quarterly Chamber of Commerce event that presents an exciting opportunity to promote and expand your business.

This event, held at the Salvation Army Anacortes Corps headquarters at 3001 “R” Avenue, moves participants from table to table, providing chances to present one-minute ‘info-mercials.’

After each Business Connections participant has presented information, business cards are exchanged and “lead sheets” are completed.

Doors open at 7 a.m. and a modest $5 fee includes Continental Breakfast. For an additional $10 you can host a “talking table” with the opportunity to display merchandise or marketing materials.

The program runs from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call today to RSVP: 293-7911.
Courtney Pestarino Orrock is the President of AllData Shredding, Inc., a AAA NAID Certified Information Destruction Contractor providing secure document and data destruction throughout NW Washington. Courtney moved to Anacortes last year from Las Vegas and is happy to be living in such a beautiful area that offers so many of the activities that she, her husband Chad and dog Freddie love to do, such as running, hiking and relaxing down by the water. When not exploring the great outdoors, Courtney likes reading, being Chad’s sous-chef in the kitchen and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys being involved in her community. As a member of AAUW-Anacortes, the Junior League of Seattle and an Anacortes Chamber Ambassador, she is able to learn about so many of the different things that make this area such a great place to work and live. Chamber Ambassadors assist Chamber staff with events, planning, and Chamber member relations. Contact Chamber Membership Services Director Sue Keller at 293-7911 to find out more about joining the Ambassadors Club.

Caught in the Act of Doing Business

Duane Remmenga reports that Bayshore Office Supplies has enhanced its copy center by adding several new services: fast, quality digital color and B&W copying and printing; document binding; scanning services. Soon to come: on-demand custom business cards and wide-format digital copying, printing and scanning.

Chamber News Notes

Max Benjamin art
The Anacortes Library Foundation is helping to raise funds for a 6 x 13 foot oil painting by Max Benjamin to hang over the main library entrance, by offering a signed limited edition Benjamin print with a donation of $350. The print measures 20 inches square and is the only print of ever made of Max Benjamin's work. He received the prestigious Governor's Award for his contribution to Northwest art is one of Anacortes' most widely celebrated artists. It is a rare opportunity to purchase a Benjamin print, and a wonderful way to help the city acquire a lasting public art legacy. To top it off, the majority of the $350 price is tax deductible. It would make a wonderful addition to any home or office - or gift. The print is on display at at Artsmart, Scott Mills Gallery and Watermark Book Co. Checks can be mailed to the The Anacortes Library Foundation, c/o Kathleen Hobbs, 1220 10th St. Anacortes, WA 98221. If you have questions, please contact Rita James 293-0655.

MacGregor Wins Again
MacGregor Publishing Company continued their winning ways by bringing home six more Gold Book awards from the Association of Directory Publishers (ADP), announced Bob Taylor, Vice President/CEO of the Mount Vernon-based publisher. The awards from the international organization of independent directory publishers were presented at ADP’s fall convention in Huntington Beach, CA. Taylor attended the conference along with John Brierley, Vice President, Sales; Mike O’Brien, Sales Manager, and Matt Bepler, Production Manager. Brierley moderated a panel presentation on customer service. Since 1994, MacGregor Publishing Company’s directories and promotions have earned 72 Gold Book Awards for publishing excellence, and the firm has been named Publisher of the Year four times. MacGregor employs 62 persons and publishes telephone directories in Skagit, Island, San Juan, Whatcom and Snohomish counties, as well as area maps and Newcomers’ and Visitors’ Guides for Skagit County, Anacortes, LaConner and Whidbey Island.

Honor Students as Tutors
Once again this year, student members of the Anacortes High School Honor Society are providing tutoring from 6 - 8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at Anacortes Middle School. The free program, led by teacher/advisor Janet Clark, is open to all students from third grade through twelfth grade. Student tutors are available to help others with homework in all subject areas. For details, call Anacortes School District Volunteer Coordinator Jayne Branch at 293-1234 or email her at jbranch@asd103.org.
**New Members**

The Brown Lantern Alehouse  
A restaurant – bar voted the “Best of” for eight years. Best burgers in 2005.  
Cheryl Rogers or Dave Yoder  
412 Commercial Avenue  
Anacortes, WA  
(360) 293-2544  
www.brownlantern.com

First Horizon Home Loans  
We offer both commercial and residential mortgages.  
Ryki Carlson  
3302 Cedardale Road #600  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
(360) 848-0819  
www.firsthorizonusa.com/mlvernon

**Member Renewals**

Anacortes Chocolate Factory  
Anders Sign Co.  
Anne Martin McCool Studio/Gallery  
Berentson Public Relations  
Buers Floral and Gifts  
Calico Cupboard  
Charlie’s Restaurant  
Dewey Inkum & Howe  
The Donut House  
Earthbound Used Books  
Fidalgo Bay Resort  
Gateway Motel  
Insights Gallery  
Jennings Chiropractic  
Lakeside Industries  
Magic Earth Landscaping  
Maison et Jardin  
Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Oasys Inc.  
Nick Petrish  
Phillip W. Madden D.D.S.  
Quantum Construction  
Ship Harbor Yacht Charters  
United Way of Skagit County  
Whidbey Golf and Country Club

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES - Pictured above is Dina Ceynal, Walgreens employee and designer of the First Place scarecrow display in the Business category. Second place winner in the Business category was Bayside Sweets and Treats. First place in the Community category went to Kristine Murray, who displayed her scarecrow at Earthbound Used Books, and second place to the Costanza Family display at Upstage Boutique and Men’s Shop. People’s Choice winner was Ailin Goff, with a scarecrow at Elisabeth’s Cottage by the Sea. Judges were Visitor Information Center volunteers Lou Bergeson, Willy Evans, Sally Casey, Derry & Marilyn Bowles, Janet Weldon.

Hundreds of children (including the Black Knight and Tinkerbell), and their parents hit the streets of Anacortes during the 4th annual “Trick-or-Treat Downtown” event put on by the Destination Downtown Anacortes division of the Chamber. Many shops passed out candy for the kids and coupons for the parents with hopes to get them to return to the stores on another occasion.
Thank You, Volunteers!

September 2005

Visitors 2318 (2103 - 2004)
Phone Calls 833 (753 - 2004)
Information Request 107 (70 - 2004)
Relocation Request 52 (45 - 2004)
Web Sessions 25,737 (23,880 - 2004)

The Chamber Board and Staff extend Thanksgiving greetings with best wishes for a busy and prosperous holiday season!

Executive Board
President
Pam Allen / Anaco Bay Inn
President-Elect
Bill Berry / KLKI AM 1340
Secretary
Jean Fantini / Donatello Flowers & Gifts
Treasurer
Vince Oliver / Island Hospital
Immediate Past President
Randy Burgess / Ace Hardware
Executive Director
Michael Broome

Board of Directors
Shane Aggergaard / Island Adventure Charters
Chris Borgen / Anacortes School District
Mike King* / City of Anacortes
Robin Pestarino / AllData Shredding
John Pope / Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Nate Scott / Windermere Real Estate / Anacortes
Dan Stahl* / Port of Anacortes
Dave Storkson / San Juan Lanes & Stork’s Restaurant
Nels Strandberg / Strandberg Construction
Carol Van Iterson / Horizon Bank
Graeme Wilson / Cap Sante Marine
Tom Wood* / Shell Puget Sound Refinery

* Ex-officio

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Membership Services
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Crystal Ashford
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Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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