November President’s Luncheon will feature Island Hospital project update

Acting Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors President Vince Oliver will switch over to his “CEO hat” Thursday, November 9 when he delivers an Island Hospital expansion project update and addresses issues currently impacting healthcare.

Make plans now to attend this informative presentation at the Salvation Army Anacortes Corps, 3001 “R” Avenue. The lunch meeting begins at 11:30.

Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to make reservations. Reservations are an important courtesy to provide the information we need for our caterer. If you need to cancel a reservation, you must do so at least 24 hours in advance to avoid full billing.

In addition to the program, there will be door prizes, introduction of new members and, as always, an opportunity to meet other business people and exchange business cards.

Island Hospital hosts luncheon

Island Hospital, known for a big-hospital range of services in a small acute-care facility, will host the November President’s Luncheon. The hospital also manages Family Care Clinics in Anacortes and on Lopez Island, all under the auspices of Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 2, serving western Skagit County, North Whidbey Island and the San Juan Islands. Island Hospital was recently named one of the nation’s top performance-improvement leader hospitals.

Upstage to host Business After Hours

Contrary to local mythology, you CAN buy socks in Anacortes. Socks – and a whole lot more – at 28-year-old Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store, 520 Commercial Avenue.

Upstage, owned by Anne Smith, will host the Business After Hours Thursday, November 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The following day, Upstage will host a pre-holiday Open House (November 17 and 18), featuring a storewide discount of 30 percent. Anne will offer Business After Hours guests a special opportunity to score early on Open House deals!

As always, the evening event will feature refreshments and hors d’oeuvres. Bring your business cards, too, for networking opportunities as well as a chance to win a door prize.

To help our host with preparations, please reserve your spot today with a telephone call to the Chamber of Commerce at 293-7911.
The Chamber held its annual Retreat on Tuesday, October 18. The focus of the meeting was to involve Board members—both current and incoming—in strategic planning and to set goals for 2007. We also discussed ways to update and invigorate our committee structure.

Tentative goals for next year center on four areas: (1) membership; (2) economic development and governmental affairs; (3) the Chamber Board; and (4) marketing and promotions. What do these goals mean and what can our members expect to see over the next year?

- We will more clearly communicate membership benefits, publish a membership directory, and provide a quarterly orientation for our members.
- We will develop a strong business community “voice,” surveying members on specific issues and producing related position papers, and conducting quarterly forums on specific topics of interest.
- We will improve the training, education, and orientation of our Board members.
- We will take a hard look at our marketing programs, including events, measuring effectiveness, reviewing structure, improving our message and web capability.
- We will initiate a blog through our website that can be used by members to discuss items of common interest.

In addition, we will also be looking at reducing the number of committees, consolidating into a divisional structure. Tentative divisions are Membership, Economic Development/Governmental Affairs, Executive/Finance, and Marketing & Promotions.

Each Board member will be accountable to at least one division. Each division will have appropriate committees underneath that umbrella (each of the events, for example, would be a committee within the Marketing & Promotions division).

We expect to continue our work identified at the retreat and will finalize our goals and governance structure at our November board meeting. Our thanks to Mike Bruggeman for his assistance in facilitating our Retreat.

I encourage you to attend the President’s Luncheon on November 9, at which I will be updating members on the Island Hospital building project and issues facing healthcare.

I also encourage you to experience “Taste Anacortes” on November 8, a new monthly restaurant event initiated by the Chamber. As always, I can be reached at 299-1300 or voliver@islandhospital.org.

Have a wonderful month and thank you for your continued support of the Chamber.

Vince Oliver
Member Profile

El Jinéte Mexican Restaurante y Cantina

It has been 20 years since members of the Cortez family established El Jinéte Mexican Restaurant behind a florist shop in the 5th Street block of Commercial Avenue.

The business, which expanded and flourished after moving into the space previously occupied by the florist shop, is owned by Simon Cortez, father of Adolfo Cortez.

“We are a family business,” said Adolfo. “We got our experience working at the El Cazador in Oak Harbor after moving here from Los Angeles in 1983.”

That business was owned by an aunt. When Simon opened his own restaurant in Anacortes, working partners included his son and his wife, Gretchen. Also working at El Jinéte is Adolfo’s sister Yesenia, who married into the long-established Anacortes business family of Mike Demopoulos.

Adolfo is grateful for a supportive local clientele, especially in winter months. He said the Cortez family strives to meet the desires of diners, noting by way of example that cooking is done in corn oil as opposed to lard as is traditional in Mexican cuisine.

“We try hard to accommodate our customers, cooking from scratch with fresh ingredients, toning down spices and things like that,” he said.

El Jinéte is open seven days a week, with a separate lounge called “the Cantina.”

Upcoming events will help to make holidays bright

This Christmas season will be packed full of Rockwellian celebrations.

We invite you to come down to the Chamber building (819 Commercial Avenue) for the Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1. This program starts at 5:45 p.m. with the Anacortes High School Band, and continues with a program that includes performances by the Mt. Erie and Fidalgo elementary schools and the High School Choir.

After the celebration, children are welcome to visit with Santa and have their pictures taken in the Chamber foyer.

The Chamber Holiday Art Walk is from 6 to 9 p.m. on December 1, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 2. Stroll through downtown and enjoy this popular event.

Free Horse and Carriage rides are back!

Every Saturday from Thanksgiving to Christmas the carriage will be stationed at a downtown business from noon to 4:30 p.m.

This year’s sponsors are Cheesecake Creations, Donatello, Burton Jewelers, Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store, and the Majestic Inn and Spa.

The Chamber sponsors the beautiful white tree lights on downtown Commercial Avenue each year.

Chamber member businesses are encouraged to enhance the spectacular and festive holiday look in Anacortes by participating in the white light and window display contest.

Lights and displays need to be in place by Tuesday, November 28. Winners receive a coupon for a flyer insertion in the Chamber newsletter ($50 value). To enter the contest, please fill out an application at the Chamber business office, 819 Commercial, Suite F, before November 24.

Chamber hosts leadership summit

The Chamber of Commerce hosted a Summit on September 29 involving City, Port, Schools, Hospital, and varied business leadership.

The intent of the meeting was to foster improved communication between various constituencies throughout the City. Points of common concern focused on staffing issues, affordable housing, and the International Ferry run, among others.

It was agreed that the Chamber would initiate follow-up with local legislators and that the Summit would be a recurring event.
Caught in the Act of Doing Business

Caught in the Act of Doing Business recently at Island Adventures Check-in Center and Gift Shop was Sam Cole, displaying a holiday hint for gift certificates. Island Adventures is located at 1801 Commercial Avenue. Business owner is Shane Aggergaard.

Ambassadors Corner

Mark Lione

Mark moved to Anacortes from Fairfield, Connecticut in January of 2004. Having spent over 20 years in the world of fashion running three top intimate apparel companies in Los Angeles and New York City, Mark oversaw the design, production, and marketing of merchandise at all retail levels from Walmart to Neiman Marcus. The world of apparel afforded Mark the opportunity to travel more than 100,000 miles a year throughout Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin America and gave him a good perspective on what people desired when traveling at different hospitality properties.

When Mark decided to leave corporate America and began looking for alternative business opportunities, he focused on various hospitality properties in the Pacific Northwest.

After spending a number of years investigating coastal properties in Oregon and Washington, Mark was delighted to find such a jewel in the Pacific Northwest as Anacortes because of its natural beauty, its beautiful surrounding water, and its proximity to Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.

When not greeting visitors to Anacortes at the Cap Sante Inn, Mark is passionate about sailing, cooking, music, running, dancing, going to the opera and theater in Seattle, and taking long walks with his constant companion, Elly.

Over the next year, Mark and Elly hope to spend time exploring more of Fidalgo and the other San Juan Islands as well as the rest of the beautiful state of Washington.

Special Thanks to...

The following businesses added to the excitement of the October Business After Hours with their generous donations of door prizes:

- Anacortes Window and Door
- Catering á la King
- Elisabeth’s Cottage by the Sea
- Maison et Jardin
- Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
- Pacific Design
- Seaside Autobody and Accessories
- Whidbey Island Bank

And these businesses donated door prizes at the Business Connections event:

- Hampton Inn & Suites
- Anacortes Soo Bahk Do
- Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
- ORCA Information
- Airporter Shuttle/Bellair Charters

Donatello

Holiday Open House

20% off storewide!

(Sale does not apply to flowers)

Friday, November 3, 6 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, November 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

702 Commercial Ave.  www.donatelloflowersandgifts.com
Bluewater Wireless named a Verizon Wireless dealer

Bluewater Wireless, with stores in Lynn- den, Ferndale, Anacortes and Burlington, has been named a Verizon Wireless dealer. “Verizon Wireless has the most reliable wireless network nationwide,” said Sandy Knutzen, co-owner of Bluewater Wireless. “We’re honored that Verizon Wireless has chosen us.”

Customers now may choose from a variety of Verizon Wireless packages, including two wireless broadband services: BroadbandAccess and V CAST. BroadbandAccess is the company’s high-speed wireless broadband network, geared toward mobile professionals and business customers.

It now covers more than half the popula- tion of the United States. V CAST is the nation’s first broadband multimedia service for consumers, offering music and video content on demand.

Bluewater Wireless also offers Nextel and Sprint cellular phones and service plans, Dish Network satellite television and Clearwire wireless broadband. Blue- water Wireless provides headsets, memory cards, Bluetooth-capable devices and other accessories.

The Anacortes branch (293-7663) is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at 1516 Com- mercial Avenue. For more information, visit www.cellularhero.com.

Holiday Art Walks

The November Gallery Walk is Friday, Nov. 3 from 6 - 9 p.m.

Participating galleries include: Anne Martin McCool Gallery; Keystone Center for the Arts: (the following businesses will be open at the Center: Elisabeth’s Cottage by the Sea, Jay Lepore Studio, Zeta Wolf, Lorraine Beegle, and Alice Kapka Studio).

Also participating are Insights Gallery; Digital Art Moments (the gallery presents “Thanks for the Memories” by various art- ists); Adrift; Scott Milo Gallery; Star Bar; Johnny Picasso’s; Gallery at the Depot; Bowman Gallery.

And don’t forget the Chamber Holiday Art Walk, scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. on December 1, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 2. Stroll through downtown and enjoy this popular event.

Marketing...

(Continued from page two)

relocated to these quintessentially North- west maritime towns.”

The article noted that all three com- munities lie in the “rain shadow” created by the Olympic Mountains. It included a quote from an Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center volunteer, who said, “Average rainfall in Anacortes is just enough to encourage growth of forests and lovely flowers.”
**VIC Statistics**

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**Chamber Officers**

**Executive Board**
- **Acting President**
  - Vince Oliver / Island Hospital
- **Acting President-Elect**
  - Robin Pestarino / AllData Shredding
- **Treasurer**
  - Nate Scott / Windermere Real Estate
- **Immediate Past President**
  - Pam Allen / Anaco Inn/Anaco Bay Inn

**Board of Directors**
- Chris Borgen / Anacortes School District
- Zee Hogan / Maison et Jardin
- Mike King* / City of Anacortes
- Pat Meyer / Viking Moving Services
- John Pope / Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
- Peter Steffen / ABC Yacht Charters
- Bob Hyde* / Port of Anacortes
- Dave Storkson / San Juan Lanes & Stork's
- Nels Strandberg / Strandberg Construction
- Carol Van Iterson / Horizon Bank
- Graeme Wilson / Cap Santa Marine
- Thomas Wood* / Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Michael Stolmeier* / Smugglers Villa Resort

* Ex-officio

**Staff**
- **Executive Director**
  - Mitch Everton
- **Events Coordinator**
  - Stephanie Hamilton
- **Licensing**
  - Kristi Daniels
- **Sub-agents**
  - Kathleen Mitchell

**Delicious Event**

The Chamber and the Anacortes American are sponsoring “Taste Anacortes.”

Twelve local restaurants will participate in the inaugural event, to be held on Wednesday, November 8. Subsequent “Tastings” will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. The format: participating restaurants will be split into two routes. Diners will visit six restaurants, enjoying delicious hors d’oeuvres and/or dessert. Those diners visiting all of the restaurants on their route will be eligible to win dinner for two at a participating restaurant.

**Ticket cost: $20 (See flyer insert)**