## Candidates Forum

Please join us on October 9 at 11:30 am for the candidate forum and chamber membership annual meeting (ratification of board member slate of nominees).

The format for this forum is more relaxed than traditional forums. While chamber members enjoy lunch, candidates will move from table to table to share their platforms and answer your questions. Make sure you take this opportunity to learn more about these individuals who may soon represent you. Bring your thoughtful questions as a member of the business community and let’s keep the conversation going.

County-wide and state legislative district 40 candidates will be present including assessor, auditor, county commissioner, treasurer and PUD commissioner.

Community partnerships are an important aspect of doing business. Deb Davis Bundy with Skagit Publishing will briefly discuss some of their partnerships, including their partnership with the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Association (EDASC) of Skagit County. Games and prizes (wine and restaurant gift certificates) provided!

Lunch ($15) will be held at the Lutheran Church at 22nd & O and will be provided by the Farmhouse Restaurant, please bring a gift for the give-away.

## Evans Funeral Chapel

In 1967 Willard Evans, along with his son, Bob, founded Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, located on 32nd Street across from Storvik Park. The business remains with the family, currently owned by lifelong Anacortes resident, Bob Evans and his wife Joanne. Willard was active in the funeral business until 1988, and continued to be involved for another 5 years, retiring at the age of 84. Having passed away in 2002, Willard’s vision of serving families with the utmost respect and dignity lives on. With this vision of heartfelt personal service in their ministry to families, the present full-time staff includes Joe Waham, licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer, Lennie Williams, licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and Paula Kidder, Office Administrator. Part-time staff includes Jim Hadden, licensed Funeral Director, Linda Haddon, certified Insurance Planner and Celebrant and Ellen Evans, Administrative Accountant. Bob continues to serve as Executive Administrator and licensed Funeral Director. Please join us for a special “Halloween” themed afterhours on October 30 at 1105 32nd Street from 5:30–7:00PM. RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away.
Greetings from your 2014 President! As I look towards the future and reminisce of Anacortes’ great year that the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce has had. What is still in progress, changes coming with the Comp Plan and office staff changes.

Wow what a year! Of course I did not get as much as I wanted done but I know that our new president, Karin Baldwin, of Quantum Construction will not miss a beat and continue with what the board, members and staff tasked us to do. For our new board members and the ones leaving, thanks for your dedication to the chamber and staff. Mary and Tricia, thanks for all the work that you have done for this chamber and the best to both of you.

Anacortes “IS” open for business! Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and remember our mission statement: “To be the most livable and economically vibrant waterfront community in the Pacific Northwest!” Open your doors for our guests and they will return.

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Anacortes is open for business! I want to say that anyone who says Anacortes is not, well, they have not gone down and talked or met with the wonderful staff at city hall. As I talk to my colleagues north and south and they express their frustrations with county and other city staff and regulations, I feel blessed to be in Anacortes. The planning, building, and public works go beyond what they need to make your project go as smoothly as possible. I speak from experience as I myself have gone all the way through conception, permitting, inspections, and now construction.

What a great community we live in. We should be proud to live in a community that is so friendly. I wish the best to all the members of Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and remember our mission statement: “To be the most livable and economically vibrant waterfront community in the Pacific Northwest!” Open your doors for our guests and they will return.

a message from the president

Tune up your flat top, rosin up your bow, and strung your washtub and put on your best dress overalls.

It’s time for BREWGRASS!

3 Clubs • 6 Acts • 51 Handles

Save the date: November 7th & 8th, 2014

1st Annual
BLUEGRASS \ MICROBREW

BROWN LANTERN ROCKISH GRILL

RICKSHAW GRAVEYARD

Rockin’ the Northwest!

Member profile

Adrift

Nicole & Maggi Holbert are proud to be starting their 14th year as Anacortes Chamber members. Nicole started Cafe Adrift on October 16, 2001 as a small coffee shop and bakery in the back of the business when it was operated under the leadership of Bret Landford at 17th & Commercial, and the business grew to expand into Adrift Restaurant in the Wells Building at 510 Commercial in August of 2003, thanks to the support and encouragement of many, but most importantly the wonderful Derig family who own the building, and sister Maggi who joined the business.

Over the years the business has grown, flourished, and changed, but the mission has remained the same—to take the bounty of the Skagit Valley and surrounding waters and transform it into delicious and nourishing food to be shared with friends and family in a comfortable and artistic atmosphere. Adrift serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner six days a week. Adrift has forged long standing relationships with local farmers and fishermen who bring the best ingredients to be used in the long standing favorite dishes on the menu and the many specials created daily by the kitchen team. As a team, the Adrift staff is grateful for the local support that keeps the business thriving and are so impressed with the ways the chamber and the City of Anacortes have developed the town into a unique destination that keeps them busy in the summer, introducing tourists and family and friends to the joys of living here. Many of Adrift’s staff alumni have gone on to open their own restaurants in town, creating a diverse and eclectic food scene that has increased business and vibrancy downtown. Adrift has always had a nautical theme, from the watery green blue walls and deep night sky blue of the ceiling, and the nautical art, to the seafood-heavy menu. Nicole even found love at Adrift, meeting her husband Mark Turner, a boat builder from New Zealand, and starting a relationship over the counter, as she cooked and he dined.

Nicole and Maggi have a new business as well. They recently purchased the venerable Corner Pub, in Bow, and have spent eight months renovating the building. The building is now sturdy enough to handle drinking and dancing in your boots for another 100 years. It is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, with live music on Thursday evenings. They look forward to feeding you soon!

Ambassador profile

Barry Harter

Imagine this—Barry Harter of Central Payment Corporation as an elementary school teacher. We can see it! Barry is one of our Ambassadors and he lives by the golden rule.

While attending Ball State University, Barry, like most of us, worked in various restaurants and hotels, which started his passion for the hospitality industry. In 1982 he came to Anacortes and was employed at Boomer’s Landing Waterfront Restaurant for 11 years, which gave him the opportunity to buy Axelson’s Cafe in Burlington in 1993. Ownership was a huge change and a dream come true. The next 11 years went fast providing a successful food and beverage concept to the Northwest. In 2004 he sold the cafe. Barry has taken his hospitality passion into his new career as a consultant with Central Payment Corporation, by helping business owners with all their non-cash payments. Barry is the Passionate Premium Provider of all Non-Cash Payments. Central Payment is a leader in the merchant bankcard industry processing over 40% of the transactions in the USA using the latest technology to offer secure handling of all non-cash payments. Central Payments offers Merchant Loyalty and Rewards called Spoton which increase customer traffic over 30%. The FREE Copy Point of Sale for all restaurants and bars was just released and is a gamechanger and technological wonder. Barry feels that being a consultant allows him the opportunity to make a financial difference to every business in our area. A big Fan of face-to-face service, time and cost saving measures, and the appropriate equipment really improves a business’ bottom line which is very rewarding. The goal is to help one business at a time, anywhere, and all the time. Being involved in the Fidalgo Island Rotary, Burlington Lutheran Church, Local Networking Groups, SICBA, and Local Chambers of Commerce is a way to give back to the community.

“Love to live and love to volunteer!” says Barry. You can call him at 360-333-0636 or email him at barryharter@comcast.net or www.cpay.com/team/barryharter/AcceptCreditCards/Facebook.com.
Halloween Candy Drive

Halloween is right around the corner! Help support the downtown trick or treating by donating an unopened bag of individually wrapped candy.

Drop off locations: Anacortes Senior Center, Bank of the Pacific, Read Me A Story, Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store and Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Lobby.

The Majestic Inn and Spa will be hosting an amazing costume contest in their new ballroom at 4:00pm with ghoulishly fun treats and prizes for the kids (for children 12 and under). Free photos are sponsored by Read Me A Story and The Apothecary Spa during trick or treating (photos will be available at Walgreens the Monday after Halloween). San Juan Lanes is also hosting a Cyber Bowl Costume Contest from 9-11pm.

Why does my RSVP matter?

The high society of England adopted French etiquette in the late 18th century, and the writings of Emily Post aim to offer a standard no more stringent than that tradition. Late 20th century editions building on her 1920s work say, e.g., that “Anyone receiving an invitation with an R.S.V.P. on it is obliged to reply whether yay or nay…,” and some recent editions describe breaching this standard as “inexcusably rude.”

With that said, when you accept an invitation whether it is for a chamber luncheon or a business after hours the host (chamber or business owner) is expecting you and makes arrangements accordingly. These arrangements mostly (for this purpose) involve caterers who by trade charge by the head count that you provide to them.

When you do not show up, who pays the caterer? Clearly it is the hosts’ fiduciary obligation. In the chamber’s case all other members are paying for your absence. For an after-hours event, it is your host. Of course there can be unexpected life situations that come up and everyone understands and empathizes. For both after-hours and luncheons our cut-off is the day before at 3:00PM, we ask on behalf of all members that you extend the courtesy to let us know by that time if you are unable to attend, and on the flipside if you are planning to attend. Our member caterers and chamber staff thank you for your help with making our events run smoothly and cost-effectively.
October is Disaster Preparedness Month

D isasters are going to happen, it may not be tomorrow, next year, or in the next five, ten, or twenty years, but it will happen. If it does happen tomorrow, how well will you, your family, your business and your community respond to the drastic new needs? If it does happen tomorrow, how well will you, your family, your business and your community respond to the drastic new needs? What have you prepared to do?

Consider these statistics:
• Almost 40% of small businesses that close due to a disaster event never re-open.
• 91% of Americans live in places at moderate to high risk of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, high-wind damage, hazardous material spills, or terrorism.
• 85% of the U.S. critical infrastructure is owned by private industry.
• Every $1 spent on hazard mitigation, such as a disaster recovery plan saves society $4 in response and recovery costs.

Follow a major disaster, it takes about nine years for the community to return to the same economic level as it was when the disaster occurred.

Disaster Preparedness Resources for Your Business

• American Red Cross—Ready Rating Program at http://www.ready.gov/business
• FEMA—Ready.gov at http://www.ready.gov/business

Local Actions You Can Take
• Participate in a local Map Your Neighborhood program by contacting Rick Wallace, at training, at rickwallace-MF@comcast.net http://www.earth.usgs.gov/mynew/documents/MapYourNeighborhood.pdf
• Take the Community Emergency Response

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Cameron Bigge—Fidalgo Chiropractic
April Breckenridge—Anacortes Sun
Jack Hamilton—Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Barry Harper—Central Pacific Corporation
Linda Harvey—Anacortes Ship Harbor
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Dan Maus—Classic Style & Company
Matt McKay—NatWest Inn, Anchor Catering
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Theresa Rudis—individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Mary Stanley—Marketing WITH Mary
Boyd Veer—Seaside AutoBody & Accessories
John Williams—Skagit Publishing

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PRESIDENT ELECT
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TREASURER
Matt Miller Read Me A Story

PAST PRESIDENT
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Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton Executive Director
Mary Talosi Visitor Information & Operations Director
Cecilie Miller Event & Communications Director
Tricia Sharp Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

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vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!  Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org