Please join us on September 8, 2011 at 3:19 pm for the sound of the canon blast which will mark the exact hour our predecessor’s signed our papers of incorporation in Olympia, Washington in 1911. Our open house party will take place here at the chamber offices 819 Commercial Avenue, Thursday, September 8 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm.

Secretary of State Sam Reed will be presenting the chamber with a special certificate to mark this special occasion. 3000 businesses filed for incorporation in 1911 and only 45 still exist to this day. This number truly reflects the dedication to the community our business owners have shown over the past 100 years—a very good reason to celebrate Anacortes and our community!

Thank you to all the following restaurants and caterers who have donated their products for the celebration: Gere-A-Deli, Swinomish Casino, Avenue Catering, Cameron’s, LaCrema Cakes, and the Rockfish Grill will all be on hand to share savory bites and delicious treats. Anacortes Brewery will be pouring tastes.

A special thanks to Nick Chahley of Walgreens Drugstore for blowing up and printing all of the historic photographs of Anacortes for the event and providing water for attendees, the entire staff of the Anacortes History Museum for providing the photos to be blown up, framed photographs, and helpful assistance in research, Bret Lunsford for research, articles, and brilliant ideas, Marie Webster of Island Rentals for donating tables for the celebration, and Dave Sem of Sebo’s Hardware for supplying equipment to support the event.

We hope you can join us in the celebration.  Please RSVP to the chamber at 293-7911.

(See story beginning on page 5.)

business after hours

Donatello’s

In 1997, inspired by both her Italian grandmothers, Jean Fantini opened Donatello—“Little Gift.”

Grandma Marcellia’s love of Italian pottery and Grandma Madeline’s love of her garden infused Jean with an appreciation for elegant gifts and beautiful flowers that help to create an inviting and beautiful home.

For meetings of all sizes, business events or personal celebrations such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and holidays, Donatello’s designers can provide high-impact designs which will enhance the mood and set the tone for your gathering.

Donatello invites you to their business after hours on Thursday September 22, 5:30 –7:00 p.m. to browse our beautiful gift selection. Jean hopes you enjoy the wonderful items she has gathered as much as she has enjoyed finding them for you!  

Please RSVP to the chamber at 293-7911. Be sure to bring a gift for the give-away and a potential new member for fun!  

La Vita è Bella!
Anacortes—How do we compare?

Last fall, the Chamber Board agreed on a goal to visit several comparable waterfront towns to see what we can learn from other places like Anacortes. So far we have visited Port Townsend and Edmonds, toured their towns and met with their mayors, port executives and their chamber of commerce board members and Executive Directors. We learned a lot of good things we can do in the future and a few things we were thankful Anacortes is not doing.

In addition, this summer I visited over 125 waterfront towns between Olympia and Southeast Alaska, often meeting with their local chamber of commerce executive directors along the way, as part of my business editing and publishing boating cruising guides and as a travel writer for several magazines. My work puts me in a unique position to see how Anacortes fares against other waterfront communities.

First, it is gratifying to hear how well known and respected Anacortes is in both Washington and even throughout British Columbia. The Washington State Ferry is our secret weapon. While we wish we would see more of the 1.5 million annual ferry travelers spending more time in our stores and our downtown, having the ferry terminal here in Anacortes raises our recognition. The general comments I hear back are of a hard working Anacortes raises our recognition. The general downtown, having the ferry terminal here in town. They revealed to us that they hope to soon have foot ferry service to Seattle to promote day trips by visiting tourists. Both

have many visitors who visit by car and are envious of our average 12,000 marina night stays at the Boat Haven.

Many communities are promoting their cities through special events, art festivals and food festivals. Almost all comparable towns have Saturday Farmers Markets, and many are now offering music events on their waterfront. In August, the Taste of Edmonds event weekend draws over 75,000 people and is a huge economic windfall.

Two waterfront towns in British Columbia, Ladysmith and Cowichan, have spent the last 10 years in a transition from hard working waterfronts to now offering gourmet shops and restaurants. Cowichan brought in an artisan cheesemonger and a bakery, along with a shop offering the best homemade ice cream on the west coast, located next to their kayak and whale watch stores. The Udder Guys Ice Cream is now going national in Canada and in planning on expanding to the U.S.

The town of Ladysmith offers coffee houses, and a bakery with arguably the best buns in the west—cinnamon buns that is. Ladysmith also offers a trolley (gas powered) that links all the businesses downtown with the marina, the parks and even the shopping mall on the outskirts of the town. The cost to ride is a suggested donation of $1. It is cute and adds character to the town as well as the transportation benefits for its visitors. Ketchikan also has trolleys to shuttle their tourists around their town’s attractions. Here is an idea that could be interesting for Anacortes.

What did we learn? Edmonds has a beautiful downtown where the annual city budget for flowers, landscaping and upkeep is $175,000 for beautification. Businesses compete in a contest for the best landscaping in front of their stores. Edmonds also works with building owners to match open store fronts with businesses that are the best fit for their downtown. They look to recruit successful regional businesses with 3–6 other locations; the rationale being that a business with multiple stores has a proven business track record, knows how to operate their business and is less likely to fail.

How do we fare? We have a chamber that is more involved than many others. Anacortes has a good working relationship between its chamber, the city and the port. Some communities practice this, others don’t. Our chamber is financially sound, others have been running at a loss for several years during the downturn in the economy tapping into their reserves. Some towns have invested in large public attractions and now struggle to financially support them. Our waterfront just keeps getting better and better as we now work to connect our trails, bike paths and the downtown. Chemainus, B.C. has made the painted murals on their buildings a major draw with horse drawn carriages giving tours of the murals. We have the work of Bill Mitchell throughout Anacortes that adds to our charm. All of the communities I visit are interested in advertising themselves as THE place to visit for shopping, kayaking, whale watching, hiking and the northwest experience. They are our competition for visitors and for new residents. Even the Canadian chambers work with 2% funds to promote visits to their towns supplemented by a very large provincial tourism budget. The State of Washington has eliminated their tourism budget.

Our downtown is not quite up to par with other communities in some respects, but it holds its own. We have over 20 choices of restaurants in Anacortes, many more than other communities, and could probably do more to promote the concept that we have so many different restaurants to choose from.

(Continued next page)
meet your board

Mark Lawrence

Mark Lawrence loves the outdoors and marine activities. He was in Bellingham for 20 years as an owner of a large civil landscape company. He was approached to help with a smaller landscape company here in Anacortes and after discussions with the owner he decided to purchase the company. After commuting back and forth to Bellingham, he realized how wonderful Anacortes was and found a wonderful home here with his wife, Jackie, and their pets.

Mark’s interest in Anacortes, the town’s growth, and the ability to help with business is the reason why he is excited to be on the Anacortes Chamber Board. He hopes that he will be able to see Anacortes grow and that growth will have the citizens of this community in mind. His involvement with the Boy’s and Girl’s Club, Rotary, Anacortes Chamber, Island View child mentoring program, and the triangle gateway project has helped him see what this community wants to have here. Mark hopes to see a vibrant active community that visitors and locals alike say that they want to see more and come back or just enjoy. Anacortes has so much to offer and he hopes that he is able to help focus on the motto “Coast in and hang out.”

Mark’s focus with the chamber will be a work in progress. As he sees issues, concerns, and/or opportunity for Anacortes, he will dive in and see what is best for the community and visitors alike. Anacortes is a wonderful place to live, visit, tour through, and boat by so his hopes are to capture some of these groups and welcome them so that they want to come back and see what Anacortes has to offer.

Mark is excited to be on the board and is looking forward to working and meeting all the wonderful people and businesses in this community.

“Remembering 911”

A Program of the Burlington Rotary Foundation

Program and concert commemorating the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

September 10th and 11th, 2011:
Saturday: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM • Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM

McIntyre Hall Performing Arts & Conference Center
2501 East College Way • Mount Vernon, WA
$9.11 • $14.11 • $19.11 • $24.11 • $29.11

A special concert; a World Premier commissioned music piece “September Requiem” performed by a 60-piece orchestra and 112-voice choir; bagpipes and brass ensemble; children’s choir Graham Kerr (Galloping Gourmet); Peace & Conflict Resolution Graduate from Italy, Peace Fellow Simona Pinton “Peace & Conflict Resolution Studies” Scholarship and “First Responders” Scholarships

How do we compare? (Continued)

Other area communities envy our business diversity ranging from the refineries to small businesses and are impressed with our Anacortes Futures Project. Some want to consider it as a model for developing their own community strategic planning process. Anacortes sits well when compared to other communities. We can do better and we are learning from others. For over 100 years we have adopted the good ideas from other communities and have incorporated many of our own. Anacortes is truly a great place to visit, live and work! We will keep spreading the word.
Business After Hours at Quantum Construction

Matt Miller (Read Me A Story) and Mayor Dean Maxwell
Beth Bell (Mount Vernon Carpet One) and Anne Smith (Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store)
Stephanie Harper (Skagit Publishing) and Linda McGuire (Bayshore Office Products)
Liz Jenkins (North Islands Young Life), Barbara Atterberry (Avenue Catering) and Chris Terrell (How It Works)

thanks...

Thank you to the following members for donating door prizes for the July Summer Garden Party & Potluck at How It Works

- Anacortes AJ Rentals
- Chandler’s Square—A Retirement Community
- EDASC
- Edward Jones Investments—Jeffery Pleet
- Gems, LLC
- Quantum Construction
- Scott Milo at the Framemaker

Quantum Business After Hours

- A-1 Mobile Lock & Key
- Edward Jones Investments—Jeffery Pleet
- Gems, LLC
- Kathy’s Upscale Resale Boutique
- KeyBank
- Quantum Construction
- Read Me A Story
- The Store
- Whidbey Island Bank
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store
- Underwood & Associates, LLC

member renewals

- All About Honeymoons & Vacations
- Anacortes Dental Care—David L. Olausen
- Anacortes Eagles #249
- Anacortes Farmers Market
- Anacortes Hearing Center
- Anderson’s General Store
- Bandanas Skin Art & Fine Art
- Chinook Enterprises
- Costco Wholesale
- Days Gone By Antique Mall
- Fidalgo Animal Medical Center
- Island Internal Medicine
- Maritime’s Marine Center
- Orcas Island Eclipse Charters & Whale Watching
- Robin H. Pestarino
- Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
- Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery
- Samish Indian Nation
- Ship House Inn
- Sound Computing Solutions
- State Farm Insurance
- Trident Seafoods Corporation

new members

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PETITE WINE BAR
3401 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-4644
Bela Berghys
belawa59@gmail.com
Restaurant/Wine Bar

MARKETING WITH MARY
(360) 420-9274
marymaryesther@gmail.com
Mary Staley
Marketing
Memories from our business community

PHOTOS: Anacortes Museum, Wallie Funk Collection

Wallie Funk
Chamber President
1960, 1953–1954

Where do we begin 50 years later? My first job was as assistant director of the new athletic facility. I left that position for a six-month sabbatical in Europe. I then came home to get serious about the rest of my life. I was getting ready to take off for San Francisco and whatever that might hold but during that one week back in Anacortes my brother, Jim, told me that the Anacortes American was for sale. We had written various stories for the town weekly while in high school and thought why not check it out. The owners liked the home town boy aspect and by May 5, 1950 we were owners with a partner. We ran the newspaper for 14 years until the merge with Skagit Valley Herald.

During our years with the newspaper Anacortes was our first, last and always thought. The city was in an industrial ‘funk’. The war-time economy was showing signs of retrenchment. Our major sources of income… led by timbering, salmon canning, and a struggling business community were pushing us toward the edge. To bounce back required heroic efforts on the part of regular citizens and our business community.

Continued
Among the first things partner Webber and I did was join the chamber which in its 60th year was the glue that held the town together, during distressing times after WWII.

One by one our prime employers, the timber and shingle mills declined and fell victim to the times. Our industry was our lifeline; the question was, what do we do?

There was a spare but persuasive book “Democracy Is You” introduced to the town by Amelia Hileman, and several who read it got the point—which was everything about communities such as ours larger/smaller were called on to marshal their own resources. It was the moment to define our problems and come up with methods to attack, solve and look to the future. Everyone took part in scores of meetings, and within seventeen weeks our massive joint research came to an end. These efforts were truly the injection that was required to revitalize the town in many respects. The foremost on the list was a type of industry that could solve our employment problems. While all our studies were going on, it was rumored that a major industry had Anacortes in its sights.

Although developments that eventually came, would have happened regardless of the Poston Study (of Dr. Richard Poston). The entrance of the refineries, Shell and Texaco, brought a new era to our town. During all of this the chamber played a vital role in welcoming the newcomers to Anacortes.

Relationships and friendships developed that are still in place today. After that many things began to happen: stabilization of payrolls, revitalization of our school system, street paving programs, and improvements to the infrastructures. The controversial urban renewal act (a project renewal plan) still in effect, looked like remarkable foresight many years later.

Big development was to come and plans for that area are still pending but offering new hope. A big development during that time was requiring a Federal Grant to build the Cap Santé waterway.

Volunteerism on the part of many local citizens was the “oil” that made the town engine accelerate; now fifty years later Anacortes has a wonderful opportunity to put on additional touches to a town masterpiece.

For our efforts back in the 1950s and early 1960s, Anacortes was named an All American City by the national municipal league. That took a huge amount of work on the part of the citizens. Our contributions dated back to a half of century ago—and have a very large impact of where we are today!

Douglas Philip Burton
Chamber President, 1967–1968

It is humbling to think that I was much involved in the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce at the mid-point of the hundred years we now celebrate. Recently married and just away from the University of Washington and the US Army, I was ready to work for our community.
I began as a board member and worked “through the chairs” to eventually be president. We recently celebrated a milestone of the Anacortes Arts & Crafts Festival as it was called when I joined with a number of like-minded people to change its second year the course that it had begun. People such as Maria & Nick Petrish, Anita & Jack Mayer, Pat & Don Woods and a host of other decided to “add a cultural dimension to Anacortes” as it was stated in our statement of purpose. We oriented the event around promoting serious Northwest artists and bringing their works to our community. It was a wonderful all-volunteer activity, involved a wide part of the community and great deal of well-appreciated help from Shell and Texaco in so many ways. It was a great few years and at that time it was ranked the best by most artists. Even the food concessions were local service club work.

Eventually the “through the chairs” resulted in my being elected to be president and I had no idea what that would mean. Our son, Philip, was born on February 1, 1966, and I passed out dessert “cigars” made by a Vancouver Konditerei to mark the event at the chamber lunch. Shortly things got serious since we were asked as a chamber, to support the proposed aluminum works on Guemes Island. So began a time of endless meetings, endless arguments, and I was in the idle of it! It was a most uncomfortable time but I think I managed to still keep up friendships in spite of this seriously flawed project. Since no one wanted to be president the following year I had two terms. It was then that some of us in the chamber realized that there was a problem at the Port of Anacortes and I was asked to run for Port Commissioner. I then left the board after my election and served two six year terms which I found an interesting time of my life. At that time it was a completely unpaid position and again it brings home the importance of being a volunteer to the community.

I am grateful for the time that I have spent with the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and I still envision and even better Anacortes. We have a valuable resource in our maritime location and some of those properties have been lost through unsuitable development. We have a core of skilled craftsmen who build and repair boats and we even have a very important specialty ship-building enterprise. These need to be encouraged.

Tourism is important but it has a dark side with low-paying jobs and a few problems that only success can bring forth. A recent crawl through the few blocks of Hwy 2 in Leavenworth is an experience I cannot repeat. I often go to one of America’s premier tourist destinations, the Oregon Coast, and a close look at Newport, Seaside, Coos Bay or a host of other seaside communities shows a lot of poverty and a quite stressed actual business community. I often feel that many of the people are too poor to even move away but then where in Oregon could they go now to find work?

As we look to the next hundred years of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce there is a need to have a balance that will use our many advantages of suitable employment, create an interesting destination for visitors, and provide outstanding resources for those visitors and our own people. Those in the first hundred years had a vision and now of that cohort hand that work to the other which follow. Good Luck!

Phyllis (Bullock-Swanberg) Lamb Chamber President, 1969

Memories as the first woman president of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, and at that time I believe to be the first in the state (July 7, 1969).

At the time I was president, we had only a part time secretary, Lillian LaRue. The thing that made this work was a VERY strong merchants association which I was a part of as manager of the Sears store.

Continued...
An Acortes chamber of commerce celebrating 100 years of service

As a newly appointed president I was asked to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new airport. It was a very cold day in November 1969 and Phil Burton as a small child wanted to cut the ribbon instead. What an appropriate thing this was, as he has been involved with our city ever since.

Being elected as president has many memories, such as being the first woman appointed to the Washington State Good Roads Association representing Skagit County, and so many others.

**Anne Smith**

38 years on Fidalgo Island
26 years in the business community

My involvement with the Anacortes Business Community began a few years before I purchased Upstage Boutique in 1985. At that time ABC (Anacortes Business Community) was a small group of business owners who met weekly at Kates cafe and later the bowling alley. We had our own dues, by-laws and officers. We averaged 15 or so members at each meeting. It was a time of sharing and planning events. Some of these events included Shipwreck Day (monies to be dedicated to Christmas decorations for Commercial) and the hanging flower baskets and banners. We had a little train (named the ABC train of course) and it was not only in our local parades but sometimes out of town. In the late 80’s this committee became the retail committee of the chamber of commerce.

I served as president of ABC several years as well as Shipwreck Day chair several years. This event was started by Ginger Houston over 25 years ago. Some of the early members of ABC included Ginger Houston, Don Childs, Marian Lewis, Donna Radeke, John Prosser, Jeanine Murphy, Laurie Gere, Esther Buer, Eloise Hammer, Erica and Bob Pickett, Bob and Miriam Donovan and Tommy Lien to name a few.

Knute S. Figenshow

Board of Directors, 1973–1974; Chamber President, 1974–1976

In early 1972 while serving as Manager Purchasing at Shell Oil companies Anacortes refinery, the refinery manager George Holz- man (a member of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors) asked me to take the chamber’s job of treasurer. After taking care of a problem I was elected the next year to the chamber board of directors for the 73–74 term. Then in the 74–75 term I was elected for the position of vice president and Tom Lien was President. After one meeting Tom told me his business would not allow him to devote the time needed to serve as president and would I do it. My boss and the chamber board asked me to step up and become president.

I was asked to serve again during the 75–76 term. One of the first things the vice president and I had to do was to find and hire a new chamber manager. The next job was to arrange a retreat which hadn’t been held for some time. The purpose of it was to review the status of programs underway, discuss past objectives, look at the status of relationships with local organizations like City of Anacortes, Port of Anacortes, Skagit County, Skagit County Regional Planning Council, Washington State Ferry Advisory, etc. We broke up into various groups, like Retail, Transportation, Industrial, Tourism, Membership, Marine and Skagit County Development Association.

It turned out that getting a business person on the City Council was the number one objective and I became that person. The city of Anacortes was past due in bringing its comprehensive plant up to date, I was appointed by the mayor to chair that committee. The next year the city Council appointed me to be Vice Mayor. The Mayor became ill and the council elected me Mayor.

**Laurie Gere**

Board of Directors 1984–1994

I served on the board from 1984 thru 1994. My first memories of the chamber were the original chamber building which is now the parking lot of McDonalds. Maria Petrish was the chamber manager, Maureen Dickson was the president of the Board, there was a small office, a board room and a counter (which is now the beverage counter at the Deli—I bought it from the chamber when we moved into the new building); at the counter was visitor information and the DOL. When a visitor came in the chamber, manager or DOL staff would help them out. Yes, only two people (no volunteers), mainly with ferry information. When the property was sold we looked to move downtown in order to draw...
the visitors north of 12th. While we looked for property, we worried if we were doing the right thing moving into downtown, then we found the Littlefield property where there was an old service station. We looked everywhere for money, lots of fundraising, many small businesses contributed money and labor, and in kind to get this done (the city couldn't help—they had all the 2% funds earmarked to support the Preston at that time). I remember John Prosser, Bob Donovan and myself visiting Jim Rice (mayor) with no luck securing funds. That's when the condo concept for the building came to be, just so we could afford the building payments. By now Gary Smith had been manager, and we hired Melanie (can't remember her last name) and appointed her as the Executive Director. We as a board grew in our governance abilities. We went to Portland every year to the Annual Chamber of Commerce meetings and training. We also had several black tie galas at Skyline Beach Club and The Majestic. We had the first few big parties and installations at Scimatar Ranch. In the early to mid-nineties we had monthly chamber breakfast meetings starting at 7am. We called them “Good Morning Anacortes,” and would get 75 to 100 people. They were at the Deli and we served a hot buffet meal. We started the Waterfront Festival to be our main fundraising event and to celebrate our waterfront and maritime history. Some of board members were Doug Colglazier (Washington Federal), Terry Christian, Ian Munce (city), Mel Farnsworth, Susan Mortansen (Sugiyo), Marc Estvold, Ron Smith, John Prosser, Bob Goodman (DCI), Irv York, Bob Donovan, Sam Payne (Farmers Insurance), and Bob Alberstadt (Shell) just to name a few. I served as president for two terms because Bob Alberstadt was transferred just as his term started. My proudest accomplishment was the development of the Volunteer Program for the VIC. I ran an ad in the paper for recruitment, and we met at the Deli until we served a hot buffet meal. We called them “Good Morning Anacortes,” and would get 75 to 100 people. They were at the Deli and we served a hot buffet meal. They were at the Deli and we served a hot buffet meal. We started the Waterfront Festival to be our main fundraising event and to celebrate our waterfront and maritime history. Some of board members were Doug Colglazier (Washington Federal), Terry Christian, Ian Munce (city), Mel Farnsworth, Susan Mortansen (Sugiyo), Marc Estvold, Ron Smith, John Prosser, Bob Goodman (DCI), Irv York, Bob Donovan, Sam Payne (Farmers Insurance), and Bob Alberstadt (Shell) just to name a few. I served as president for two terms because Bob Alberstadt was transferred just as his term started. My proudest accomplishment was the development of the Volunteer Program for the VIC. I ran an ad in the paper for recruitment, and we met at the Deli until we were organized and trained. Bill Turner (one the volunteers) took the reins, and the rest is history.

John Prosser  
Chamber President, 1988–1989

In 1985 Governor Booth Gardner created “Team Washington” hiring John Anderson to boost states economic development. EDASC was formed and Sugiyo was one of the first successes of the program. Susan Mortensen Ruiz headed up to EDASC and led a group that convinced the Japanese company to locate here (December 1, 1986) and she later was hired by Sugiyo and remains a partner in the company. Members of the Chamber Economic Development Committee attended Team Washington evening in 1985 and worked with EDASC and the city to accomplish this. Chamber, VIC and Licensing was housed at 14th & Commercial (where McDonald’s is), and the property was owned by the Port of Anacortes. In 1987 the Port informed us that we would no longer be able to rent our space for only $1.00 per year. The property was sold to McDonald’s in 1988 and our rent increased forcing us to consider moving.

In 1988 the chamber board made the decision to attempt to locate north of 12th Street. Efforts by Doug Colglazier, Duane Lowell and John Prosser negotiated the purchase of the present chamber site at 9th & Commercial for $84,000 from Al & Judy Littlefield on July 31, 1989. Asked for assistance from the city and received a “no.”

The Anacortes Business Community, a very strong organization during the 1980s, made a controversial decision to join the chamber in 1988. We formed the ABC committee and they continued to meet and keep their separation from the chamber while still being members. Ginger Houston was responsible for the ginning of Shipwreck Days and this committee continued receiving the proceeds from that event for flower baskets and Christmas decorations.

The 2% hotel/motel tax money for the chamber in the late 1980s was non-existent. Making our case to the city council, we were told that the chamber was not considered in the tourism business. The chamber today receives approximately $160, 000 of the 2% funds.

Key people at the chamber, VIC and Licensing during the 1980s:
- Anacortes Chamber Managers: Maria Petrish & Gary Smith
- VIC: Jeanine Murphy

Robin Pestarino  
Chamber President, 2008

I was the president of the Chamber of Commerce in 2008. It was a very exciting time when past Executive Director, Mitch Everton, and I accomplished a great deal with the Board of Directors, our members and our chamber staff.

I joined the chamber in 2002 when my family started All Data Shredding, it has since been sold. Over the years, the chamber has grown and has improved its vision and its mission. I believe it has become a factor in the everyday fabric of life in Anacortes to the extent that it is included in any major project concerning business in Anacortes. It takes care of its members concerns both economically and legislatively; it takes care of our community by beautifying it and informing it with opinions of important matters.

I am extremely proud to have been a part of the chambers proud history in Anacortes and am thankful to Pam Allen for asking me to be a part of her Board of Directors and to Vince Oliver who asked me to follow him as president.
Retail Passports

The retail trades group has created a visitors passport that will be distributed to groups visiting Anacortes. The purpose for the passport is to bring visitors into shops and into the retail areas to see all the great items and services offered locally.

The passport will have a space for each participating retailer to stamp the booklet, showing the visit occurred. Once the passport is full the visitor will complete the booklet with their contact information and bring their completed passport to the visitor’s center. The booklets will be placed in a box for a drawing to win a retailers basket filled with gifts from the local shops.

If you belong to a group or know of a visiting group, contact Leah Hines at the chamber office.

Waving the Flag

You might notice a little more color on Commercial Avenue these days, with all the flags waving in bright, primary colors announcing “OPEN.” The retail trades group chose these flags to draw attention to special hours due to events, occasional evening hours and now Sundays.

Keeping the flags consistent will help shoppers recognize open retailers. To help promote retailers choosing to stay open on Sundays, the Visitors Information Center will have a list of those businesses on hand for Sunday shoppers.

Retailers who will be open Sundays will also have the list on hand for shoppers, helping promote other businesses choosing Sundays to stay open.

The chamber has ordered a small quantity to supply any merchants who would like to purchase a flag and help spread the awareness of shops open on Sundays or evenings.

The flags are 8½ feet tall and are fastened to a 10-foot pvc pipe/pole that we have purchased at Sebo’s. They have drilled the necessary holes to accommodate the flags. Cost of the flags including pole is $35.
Mark your calendars for September 15, 6:15 pm at the Lincoln Theatre, as we welcome Cinda Baxter, the 3/50 Project creator. Admission is only $5 to hear this nationally acclaimed speaker. Many business have already adopted The 3/50 Project for their business. Thanks to the Washington State Main Street Program, the MVDA is happy to host an evening with Cinda.

Ms. Baxter will conduct a one evening seminar with a Q&A session on how you can use the 3/50 project to strengthen your own business. Tickets for the seminar will be $5.

The 3/50 Project is a viral Buy Local campaign that sprung from a simple blog post in March 2009, supporting independent, locally owned, “brick and mortar” businesses. The idea is that if half the employed population spent $50 each at locally owned, independent businesses, it would generate more than 15,000 endorsing businesses and over 30,000 Facebook fans in its first nine months alone...without a budget for advertising or marketing.

For tickets and more information please call 360-336-3801 or tickets can be purchased at the Lincoln Theatre, Mount Vernon and Anacortes Chamber of Commerce offices.

The Mount Vernon Downtown Association welcomes Cinda Baxter, the creator of The 3/50 Project

3/50 Project—Saving the brick and mortars our nation is built on

The League of Women Voters and the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce are hosting candidates forums on Tuesday, September 20 for the Port and School District positions, and a separate forum on Wednesday, September 21 for the City Council positions. The forums will be held at the city hall council chambers, from 5:30–9:00 pm.

Anacortes City Council Positions 1, 2 and 3; Port of Anacortes Commission Positions 3 and 4; Anacortes School District Position 2, 3, 4 and 5 are invited to the forum. Please mark your calendar and be sure to take this opportunity to learn more about the people who may represent you in the future.

Candidates Forums
September 20 & 21
5:30–9:00 p.m.

Join the Skagit Young Professionals and the young professionals from the Anacortes Chamber at the newly opened Flounder Bob’s in Skyline Marina in Anacortes. The restaurant features a fantastic seafood menu as well as food for the landlubbers. Flounder Bob’s is owned by Robert and Barbara Atterberry who also own Avenue Catering & Bistro in Burlington and Bob’s Chowder Bar in Anacortes. Flounder Bob’s is located at 2201 Skyline Way in Anacortes. The fun starts at 5:30 pm.

The cost is $5 for local chamber members (any Skagit chamber) and $10 for non-chamber members. Door prizes are welcome. Expect a casual event with great opportunities to meet other young professionals, bring business cards and be ready to network.

There will be a no-host bar and treats from Flounder Bob’s.

The Skagit Young Professionals was formed by a few fun-lovin’ people in Skagit County who wanted to create a more interesting way for young people to network. Regular networking meetings can be intimidating, especially if you are only in the first few years of business. With SYP, you can chill out with other folks who are just getting started and who are experiencing the same things you are. This is a time to build the business relationships and the friendships that will help us all to become the leaders of Skagit County in a few years. The group is open to anyone age 21–40. Our mission is to create and foster an environment in which young professionals in Skagit County can develop into the future leaders of our community. Sounds cool, huh?
Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Mark Bunzel  Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing

PRESIDENT ELECT
Kristi Gabrielse  Ana-Cross Stitch

SECRETARY
Pete Kovach  Chandler’s Square, A Retirement Community

TREASURER
Jody Barnett  Shell Puget Sound Refinery

PAST PRESIDENT
Mike Trafton  Bank of the Pacific

Board of Directors
Robert Atterberry  Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Karim Baldwin  Quantum Construction
Bela Berghuys  Islands Inn
Chris Borgen  Anacortes School District
Peggy Flynn  pflynn associates
Brian Geer  American Red Cross— The Islands Chapter
Bob Hyde  Port of Anacortes
Bret Lunsford  Skagit County Fairgrounds
Dean Maxwell  City of Anacortes
Matt Miller  Read Me A Story
Vince Oliver  Island Hospital
Curt Oppel  John L. Scott Real Estate
John Pope  Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Erik Schorr  Anacortes Kayak Tours
Chris Terrell  How It Works

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

Thank you, volunteers!  Volunteer Hours: 240

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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30 Northwest Breweries
Advanced tickets:
$35 two day pass or $20 each day.
At the door
$45 two day pass or $25 each day

Historic Port Warehouse
1st St. & Commercial Ave.
www.anacortes.org/oktoberfest/

Coastin’ Hangout.