Vicki Stasch, Management Consultant, will lead us in a chamber networking program in which everyone will have the opportunity to meet and talk to others about their work or business. This session will be a totally interactive experience. Vicki brings us 30 years of experience as a facilitator, consultant and trainer for team building, strategic planning, leadership development, conflict management; change management and other topics with the goal of creating healthy positive work environments. Since moving to Anacortes full time in 2011 she has volunteered as a board member for the Anacortes Family Center and rows with OARSS.

Pat Barrett, our luncheon sponsor and President of Barrett Financial, Ltd. and his staff, have been working with their clients for 25 years discovering what is important to them so he is able to tailor wealth plans that help them to achieve their life goals. Whether is strictly for their retirement needs, financing their children’s college education, or helping their investments grow to fund those large purchases. Pat is more than just a financial advisor to his client’s, he builds strong personal relationships with them, becoming completely vested in their entire life picture.

Lunch will be served by Gere-a-Deli ($15) an Anacortes institution, family owned and operated since 1981, serving up the seasons best for all catering events. Please RSVP online at www.anacortes.org and we’ll see you at the Lutheran Church at 22nd & O on Thursday, September 12th. Bring a gift for the give-away!

Heart of Anacortes & Rockfish Grill

What is the heart of a town? The heart of a town is the people. At the Heart of Anacortes our vision is to bring people together through art and music. We want people to come, to make friends and understand what we are as a community.” An extraordinary gathering place located just a few blocks from the Guemes Channel in the historic Old Town area.

Rockfish Grill is an Anacortes institution, they specialize in Northwest food: seafood, pub favorites and their signature wood fired pizza made with fresh local ingredients, serving ales and lagers brewed right next door at the Anacortes Brewery. The brewery creates over thirty styles annually all of which are available at the Rockfish, their companion business H2O and many accounts locally and throughout seven counties in western Washington. All three businesses collaborate with the Heart of Anacortes to produce regular events. Please join us on September 19 at 5:30PM as we host a joint after-hours in the Heart garden. RSVP online at www.anacortes.org.
Exercise Your Privilege to Vote

Your chamber is all about business, jobs and keeping a good economy happening in Anacortes. Quite a number of positions are up for grabs on this year’s slate of elected officials: mayor of Anacortes, four city council positions, three commissioner positions for the Port of Anacortes, two commissioners for Island Hospital, two school district board positions and three Fidalgo Pool Commissioners.

Only 57% of Anacortes’ 10,980 registered voters got out to vote in the primary. That number is a shame. We can do better. It’s easy with a mail in ballot or simply drop your ballot off at the Anacortes Library’s drive up drop box. Easy, done.

When you have an opportunity to meet with these candidates—ask them the hard questions: what will they do for Anacortes’ economy to bring family wage jobs to Fidalgo Island, to create a positive business experience for existing and new businesses. Candidates will be holding coffee get-togethers, will be walking the neighborhoods, standing at the grocery stores to ask for your vote. Do vote, but don’t just give it away—be informed on how these candidates stand on business issues.

The chamber surveyed candidates and those Q&A’s will be posted on the chamber website for your review after September 20th. Check it out. The League of Women Voters will be holding a candidate forum on Wednesday, October 2, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall for contested races. Listen to what they have to say and be ready to ask questions. The October 10th chamber luncheon will feature ‘candidate speed dating’. Candidates with their opponents will move from table to table to have intimate conversations—responses to your questions at each table. This luncheon is not to be missed.

Remember, the Anacortes Chamber is about jobs, business and the economy. Don’t let your voting privilege be unspoken. Get out your vote and make it count. Your vote is your voice.

—Kathy Larson
Puget Sound Energy
member profile

The Gentry House
Melissa Snodgrass-Wold, Site Director

Skagit Adult Day Program (SADP) opened in October 1992 as a non-profit organization to provide a social environment that supported individuals with a dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and to provide respite to the caregiver. It first opened in Burlington two days a week, five hours a day. There was one employee at that time with board members volunteering.

With community support, SADP was able to have a permanent home in Burlington located at 116 N. Skagit Street. It is known as the Bradford House, named after a founding board member. It is now open M-F, 8-5.

The Gentry House, located at 1208 7th St, was named after a founding board member. The location in Anacortes was made possible with the help of many community members. Christ Episcopal Church made available to SADP the house, which was remodeled with funds from an Anacortes Block Grant and furnished with a Brookdale Grant which continues to follow the progress of the program. The Gentry House serves many people from Anacortes, but also reaches those living in La Conner and Oak Harbor.

SADP is unique and the focus is to provide a therapeutic environment that gives purpose and meaning to those with a dementia or disability, and to provide support and education to the caregiver. Their program is designed to nurture participants’ physical and emotional well-being by providing group contact and interactions with peers facing similar circumstances. They specialize in Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease, but also serve many clients without memory problems. Activities are supervised and modified for each person’s abilities and include: Music, Exercise, Sports/Games, Memory Stimulation, Pet Therapy, Intergenerational Activities, Outings, Gardening, Cooking, Woodworking and more!

Melissa is a LPN and currently has 2 staff members and many volunteers working with her. Helping people live their life to the fullest has always been a passion of hers and she is very excited to be a part of the SADP. SADP continues to be a non-profit organization and is dependent on dedicated volunteers and by donations from the community. Come stop by and meet Melissa and her staff! It is where friendships are made!

Learning aboard Adventuress

The schooner Adventuress invited local service clubs and educators aboard for a sail to learn about their sailing programs for youth and their mission to educate and inspire communities to make a difference for our marine environment in mid-August. To learn more about the Adventuress check out their website at soundexperience.org.
Have a store, restaurant or service office in Anacortes? When was the last time you took a good look at your business “face?” What meets the eye will set the tone for how prospective customers judge you, whether or not they patronize you and how they will describe you to their friends. Does your storefront stake a claim in the minds of passersby? Are you memorable, magnetic and motivating? Maybe? Here are some tips for a more memorable you.

You only get seconds to make a first impression—drivers need big, bright sources of information to remember you as they pass by in three to five seconds. Information is easiest to see when it’s above the pedestrian “head line,” facing oncoming traffic at a slight angle to reduce glare. Pedestrians will give you 10 seconds, if you’re lucky, to look at displays from slightly above head height to about waist high. Change out storefront displays once each month, create a 12 month planner and take a clear photo of the front of your business to use to plan your work.

Would you like to know more? Call Kevin, your free and confidential business adviser at (360) 336-6114 – do it today! Interested in starting a new business? Call James at (360) 336-6114 to get started!
Since the fifties, Shell Oil Company and its employees have celebrated their roles as prominent players in the culture and economy of the greater Anacortes area. In business terms, the Anacortes refinery fulfills an important regional role as a West Coast gasoline and diesel fuel producer—a reliable source of vital energy products with a consistent priority and focus on safety, health and environment. From a “neighbor’s” perspective, Shell and its 400+ employees have established a reputation for bringing energy and enthusiasm to the local economy and to surrounding communities and organizations including the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce.

Refinery Manager Tom Rizzo, a native Texan who now calls Anacortes home, embraced a leadership tradition established by a long line of predecessors. Rizzo understands that the refinery business is as much about people as it is about product. “Our plant is operated by people who are very talented, knowledgeable—and proud of the role this refinery plays at so many levels,” said Rizzo. “Our employees and their families routinely step into opportunities to contribute, from schools and youth sports to service organizations and non-profits such as the United Way.” The refinery manager was among several dozen employee volunteers and their families who recently took part in the annual Anacortes 4th of July Parade. As usual, Shell’s glimmering fire engines brought up the rear of the parade, handing out beaded necklaces and candy. Like his fellow volunteers, he enjoyed the opportunity to “give back to the community” and gain some insights into how Shell is perceived by its neighbors. “In a world where the pace seems to accelerate in all areas of our lives, we have employees who can be counted on to show up and contribute their very best,” said Rizzo. “That attitude applies to work and community alike—and it is gratifying to see the positive impact Shell has as we partner with our neighbors toward common goals.”
ambassador profile

Veronica Spencer

Veronica “the Vagabond” Spencer loves people, laughing, and adventure. A zest for travel and her nursing license led her from California to Alaska, Europe, and Seattle, where she met Steve Spencer, who lived aboard his sailboat Silmaril and dreamed of “sailing into the sunset.” They married, semi-retired in their 40’s, and headed to Glacier Bay, the Queen Charlotte Islands, around Vancouver Island, and Mexico, where Silmaril still resides. They traveled and lived aboard Silmaril or in a 19’ motorhome for more than 5 years…and still speak to each other!

Through a happy accident, they arrived in the Anacortes area and fell in love with the people, the town, and the access to nature and sailing. They describe this area as “the pot of gold at the end of our rainbow” and purchased their first-ever land-based home, aptly named “Vagabonds’ Rest.”

As many do, Veronica had fought a constant struggle with her weight, which was beginning to affect her health. Four years ago she saw an ad in the Clamdigger for Take Shape for Life, a comprehensive program for healthy weight loss and creating healthy lifestyle behaviors. She lost 30 pounds in 10 weeks, felt fantastic, and was so excited that she became a Health Coach to share this gift of health and hope with others.

You can visit her website at http://veronicaspen-cern.tsfl.com.

Veronica thrives on helping people make their lives better in any way she can and has thoroughly enjoyed being an Anacortes Chamber member. She became an ambassador to expand and deepen friendships, meet and support local business owners, and make a deeper commitment to her community.

Steve & Veronica will eventually bring Silmaril back to the NW and return to Alaska before finally “swallowing the anchor” (retiring from the sea). They also like hiking, kayaking, camping, bird watching, and astronomy.

Fun Fact: Veronica was an avid Mickey Mouse Club fan and yearned to be a Mouseke-ter (she still does!) She has memorized many of their songs. Ask her to sing one for you sometime!!
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vic (Visitor Information Center) Statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!
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30 Northwest Breweries, 2 Days
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