Anacortes Arts Festival

On August 7, 8, and 9, Anacortes will play host to 80,000 festival goers. They come back year after year for the treasures, fine art, music, good times and the friendly hospitality they experience when they are in our town.

This year, the weekend kicks-off with extended festival hours and a Locals Night. The entire festival will be open until 8:00 p.m. on Friday to give locals a time to explore the booth artisans after work, in a possibly less crowded and slightly cooler environment. Watch for a coupon in local papers that you can exchange for a gift during Locals Night.

The festival streets will be lined with 280 artists, representing art and craft in every medium. Make sure to check out new additions like Ink Alley—an area with indie crafts, focusing on repurposed and earth friendly products. If you want to see art and heavy equipment collide, steamroller block printing is back in the Working Studios area. 22 artists have carved Northwest designs that will be inked and rolled onto colorful fabric with the help of a steamroller. Other highlights in that area include a 3D chalk octopus emerging from the blacktop and a display of artistic creatures created from marine debris collected on local beaches.

The crown jewel of the festival is the Arts at the Port Fine Art Exhibition on the Guemes Channel waterfront. It's always magical to see the rustic Port of Anacortes warehouse transformed into a fine art gallery—you can smell the sea and observe the changing of the tides through the cracks in the massive floor beams, all while enjoying the art. This year’s juror, working with the theme “Zeitgeist” (spirit of our times) is Stefano Catalani—the renowned Curator for the Bellevue Art Museum. The show opens on Saturday, August 1 starting at 5:30 (free), and continues through the festival weekend.

If music is important the festival will have three stages going from morning into the evening hours. Bands performing, who have local ties, include A' Town Big Band, Shidaa, Knut Bell, The Jefferson Rose Band, Trish Hatley and Whiskey Fever. Music from around the region includes Crème Tangerine playing Beatles music, Pearl Django Gypsy Jazz, Chance McKinney Country Rock and Magic Bus retro Rock-n-Roll, to name a few. There will even be a Friday night street dance with Cambalache, Seattle's premiere salsa band. There is truly something for every musical taste.

All of the proceeds from this three day festival are reinvested in art—this year to the tune of $80,000. This amount includes funding for public art projects and support of other arts organizations. The majority of giving supports art education for children, filling a gap in the education system, and hopefully creating a new generation of artists and creative learners.

So come enjoy a great community celebration... find a hand made treasure... enjoy some music and good food... be inspired and awed!
Marine Trades Bill

by Peter Schrappen; VP, Government Affairs, Northwest Marine Trades Association

We did it! What’s that you ask? Well, after five years of hard work, phone calls, emails and letters, waterfront communities across Washington State have reason to celebrate. That’s because the Marine Tourism Bill passed the state House of Representatives and has been sent to Governor Jay Inslee for his signature.

“What a win for the entire state and in particular those communities around Puget Sound like Anacortes,” said Peter Schrappen, Vice President of the Northwest Marine Trade Association. “We stuck with our plan to lay out the story that an entire working waterfront goes into keeping boats afloat. And Anacortes was the cornerstone of this narrative... Washington state is open for business.”

The law, when signed, will go into effect September 1. It allows yachts registered as an LLC (as many boats super yachts are) to stay in Washington waters for 180 days before a 10 percent tax on the value of the boat is imposed by the state of Washington. Currently the tax would be imposed after an LLC-registered vessel stayed more than 60 days.

“I am walking on air,” says Schrappen. “We had a lot of people rowing all in the same direction, so everything finally lined up for us.”

Schrappen estimates that Washington State will see $30 million in new revenue with this change, which includes a myriad of services needed to keep a boat afloat—fuel and groceries for the boat owners, visits to restaurants and local establishments, plus payroll and taxes from the marinas and their employees.

“It’s working people in this state who will benefit from this change, not the yacht owner with the pretty white boat,” he said. “I think yachts are perceived as a tax break for the rich. In reality they are out-of-state businesses that want to come and spend big money in our state. They have gigantic spending potential.”

“What’s important for Anacortes to know is that your leaders stepped up to make this dream a reality. Without the strong support of your city council, mayor, port commission, Sen. Ranker, Rep. Morris and in particular without Rep. Lytton and Stephanie Hamilton of the Chamber championing this cause, we would not have had this accomplishment.”

Pictured above are some members of the Anacortes Marine Trades Association
Summer potluck appreciation party with the Visitor Information Center volunteers, held at the Seafarers’ Memorial Park Building – deliciously wonderful dishes and awesome people! These amazing community members clock in close to 4300 volunteer hours per year.

Classic Style and Company celebrated their grand opening at their new location, at 711 Commercial Avenue, on July 8th. Congratulations to Lori and Dan Maul! Pictured left to right: Laura Hartner, Amanda Hubik, Emily McNeil, Lori Maul, Mayor Laurie Gere, Dan Maul, Chamber Board President Karin Baldwin, Stephanie Hamilton, and Sandy Swartos.
Bier on the Pier

Bier on the Pier returns to Anacortes October 2nd & 3rd. Now in its 6th year, this popular festival brings beer lovers from across Washington, Oregon and British Columbia to our coastal community for a weekend of great beer, music, and food. 2,500 guests will sample the best from 30 Northwest breweries. We’re expanding the selection this year with a special cider section that will highlight six regional cideries and their delicious gluten-free creations.

Become a Sponsor!

With attendance split evenly between local attendees and visitors from across the state, Bier on the Pier is a great opportunity to promote your business to an enthusiastic crowd. Sponsorships for this event can include Facebook mentions, a banner at the festival, a sponsorship listing in the program, tickets to the festival, and/or your logo on the informational poster. We are also working to create more interactive sponsorship to promote festival supporters. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Laura Hartner at the chamber, 360-293-7911 or lhartner@anacortes.org. She would love to work with your business to find the best way for you to be a part of this popular event!

Volunteer!

This two-day festival takes many hands to make light work. Volunteering is a great way to get involved with Bier on the Pier and comes with a great perk—a free ticket to the festival! From ticket sales to brewery assistants, this festival has lots of ways that you can help. Volunteer on a Friday and enjoy the festival on Saturday, or vice versa. Come meet great people in the Anacortes community and have fun while greeting guests to our town and celebrating the best of Washington beer. You can sign up to volunteer online, go to http://bit.ly/volunteerbier or call 360-293-7911.

The chamber would like to give a big thanks to the community sponsors that make this festival possible!

Your business can be listed here too!!!

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Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Co.
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary
John Williams—Skagit Publishing

thanks...

Thank you to Natural Way Chiropractic for hosting our July Business After Hours and to Dr. Aaron Theriot for making a delicious gumbo. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing giveaway prizes:

• Fidalgo Rehabilitation & Rosario Assisted Living
• Majestic Inn & Spa
• Natural Way Chiropractic
• Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
• Washington Federal

member renewals

• Soria Real Estate
• Image360
• Favorite Associates, Inc.
• Anacortes Dental Care—David L. Olausen
• Anthony’s Restaurant
• Chinook Enterprises
• Costco Wholesale
• Fidalgo Animal Medical Center
• Island Internal Medicine
• Orcas Island Eclipse Charters & Whale Watching
• Pelican Bay Books
• Robin H. Pestarino
• Ship House Inn
• Trident Seafoods Corporation
Laurie Gere is the Mayor of Anacortes and owner of Gere-A-Deli, established in 1981. She moved to Anacortes in 1975 and worked as the manager for Anacortes Red Cross. After a brief move to Lewis County, she and her ex-husband returned to Anacortes and started Gere-A-Deli. (Today, 34 years later, her son Phil Gere Jr. carries on the leadership of running the family-owned business).

Laurie served 10 years as a chamber board member in the 1980’s and early 90’s including two terms as president during the time the chamber relocated and constructed the building at 9th and Commercial Street. Laurie took leadership of promoting tourism and developed the volunteer program that administers the visitor information center today. Being a chamber member was vital to growing her business during those early days; it provided the network and resources that were key to much of her success as a businessperson.

Today her focus is on the greater community and laying the groundwork for comprehensive and strategic planning to serve Anacortes for economic opportunities, family wage jobs, sound infrastructure, and protecting our natural resources for generations to come.

Laurie spends her free time enjoying her family (which includes five grandchildren), walking in our forestlands, and boating. When traveling for enjoyment, she is always struck by the fact that she lives in the most beautiful place in the world.

Laurie is enjoying her position on the chamber board as your Mayor and City Representative. She states, “It is fun to come full circle to be part of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce again.”

Fun Fact—When Laurie started her business at 406 Commercial Avenue, she and her family lived in a loft apartment attached to the Deli. She says, “I guess I lived in a 1980’s style “live/work space.” This living arrangement allowed all her family’s resources to go into making a successful startup business.

The cooperative efforts coordinated through our local Chamber of Commerce continue to pay great dividends for business and customers alike in the greater Anacortes area.

As an example, the Anacortes Marine Trades Association, coordinated through the chamber, is having a direct positive impact through successful boat shows at Cap Sante and creative marketing that includes a specific website for the local industry.

Anacortes Marine Insurance is proud to be a member of the Marine Trade Association and very appreciative of the business we have generated through this group’s efforts.

Scot Buchanan
Owner
Anacortes Marine Insurance
Executive Board

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Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton  Executive Director
Sandy Swartos  Visitor Information & Operations Coordinator
Laura Hartner  Events & Communications Coordinator
Amanda Hubik  Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

Thank you, volunteers!

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

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For more information visit PortofAnacortes.com/360.299.1818

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