Candidate Forum

Please join us on October 8th at 11:30 am for the candidate forum and chamber membership annual meeting (ratification of board member slate of nominees).

Candidates will each give a brief statement in front of the attendees, and then will move from table to table to answer your questions. Make sure you take this opportunity to learn more about these individuals – some of whom are already representing you, and some who are trying to earn your vote. Bring your thoughtful questions as a member of the business community and let’s keep the conversation going. Candidates for port, hospital and pool commission as well as city council and school board will be in attendance.

Our October luncheon is sponsored by Quantum Construction. A family-owned construction company established in 1984, Quantum Construction has a long history of successful projects in northwest Washington. Their services include commercial projects such as banks, restaurants and office buildings, industrial projects, and custom residences.

The lunch will take place at the Anacortes Lutheran Church (22nd & O) at 11:30am and will be catered by the Farmhouse Restaurant. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $15 luncheon rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $18. Bring a gift for the giveaway.

Skagit Valley College—Marine Technology Center

Skagit Valley College is honored to host the October Business After Hours event. Please join us at the Marine Technology Center in Anacortes for a fun and informative evening. SVC President, Dr. Tom Keegan will share innovative plans the college has made that will impact our regional communities in exciting and transformative ways. Come and join us for great food, great company, and some unique prizes. Skagit Valley College at the Anacortes Marine Technical Center 1606 R Avenue, catered by the Rockfish Grill. October 15, 2015, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Please bring a gift for the giveaway! RSVP online.

chamber chat

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce would like to invite all members to attend this quarter’s Chamber Chat, being held on Tuesday, October 13 from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the chamber board room.

Topics of discussion will be the introduction of the new website that was launched late in August and is a great new asset to our community. We will also be teaching members how to better optimize their listing on the website with enhanced features and the ability to customize their presence on the site.

Please RSVP to the chamber at 293-7911, space is limited.
What is a “real person”? The chamber has been facilitating a process this past year to come up with a destination promise for Anacortes. It’s exciting stuff! The term “real people” is used to describe the Anacortes residents in the destination promise. Thinking about this description as I ran my errands in Anacortes, I took notice of real people. People who care about the feelings of others, whether they know them or not. At the grocery store, a young man in the produce department asked if he could help me and I expressed my frustration at not knowing what to serve at a dinner party. This led to an eager sharing of his Hispanic heritage’s recipes, tips on what products the store carried for cooking them, and ideas on how to make them vegetarian. When checking out, the checker talked excitedly about his summer exploring Mt Erie, giving me some good tips on how to not get lost.

As I was attending the Anacortes Open Streets Festival on Commercial Ave, indulging in a beet salad at Johnny Picasso’s, I observed happy people of every age bike riding together, skateboarding, juggling while serving bumbleberry cobbler (impressive!), and playing music. There was Chris Terrell with his magic camera, a toe-tapping local band playing for the crowd, coffee being poured at the new Portals coffee shop, and AHS moms raising money for their kid’s year-end class party. Businesses had their doors open and were full of real people. I experienced a thriving and active business community where people care about the feelings of others.

Mark Lawrence, past chamber president and outgoing board member, is real person who cares about Anacortes. His passion for others in both the business and personal experience that people receive when visiting or living on our island was apparent during his years of service on the chamber board. As it is his turn to rotate off of the board, I commend him for influencing the direction of the chamber and making decisions that have led to its success today.

I’m excited to see Chris Long, owner of Jolly Mon Charters, step into the role of chamber president in November, continuing the goals that the chamber has established. Myself? I will continue on the board for one more year as past president. The experience of enjoying the real, energetic, involved, passionate, people of Anacortes has changed me. We are a team of real people and I am living in paradise.

—Karin Baldwin
Quantum Construction

Fresh look for the chamber website

If you’ve visited our website lately, you have been greeted by a fresh new look! The website is designed with the guest in mind, and has added functionality to make their experience better—there is a search button above the fold and near the top of the page, a place for people to sign up for the Anacortes Scene (our email newsletter that comes out every 6–8 weeks), a scrolling event listing that focuses on community events, newly created itineraries for prospective guests—even a page with an embedded weather forecast, which has been one of our top ten most visited pages in the month of September! As with all good websites, it will continue to evolve and grow, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for content enhancement. Contact Amanda Hubik at ahubik@anacortes.org – please make sure to include the URL of the page you have comments on.
Puget Sound Energy has been serving Skagit County and Anacortes since the early 1900’s. And since then, they have worked hard to be number 1 in customer service. Did you know that their longest serving employee was a Skagit County resident? Andy Loft worked for the company from 1912 to 1963 starting his career cleaning the shops of the Bellingham-Skagit Interurban electric railway. Andy worked 51 years for the company in various positions. Notably he served this community through Rotary, Red Cross, and the Chambers!

Puget Sound Energy offers many programs and services for both residential and business customers. Programs that assist with reducing bills, staying safe and prepared, increasing energy efficiency awareness and rewarding customers for being good stewards of the environment.

Energy Efficiency Programs:
- PSE offers appliance rebates, business incentives, rebates for electric vehicle charging stations and Green Power purchasing options. Visit PSE’s website [www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com) or call their Energy Advisors for more information 1-800-562-1482.

Safety & Preparedness:
- Many customers in the Northwest utilize generators to avoid unexpected power outages during the winter storm season. Puget Sound Energy provides information on generator safety to protect their customers and line workers. Additionally, they attend safety and preparedness fairs to spread the message about staying safe being prepared for natural disasters. Check out their website for safety and preparedness information: [www.pse.com/safety](http://www.pse.com/safety) Have a Plan, Build a Kit, Stay Informed!

Power Outage Information:
- Puget Sound Energy has several fantastic tools for staying informed about power outages:
  - Download their new Outage Map app to your smart phone. Search for “Puget Sound Energy” in your phones’ store and download today.
  - Connect with their social media team on Facebook, Twitter and Flicker
  - Checkout the outage map at [www.pse.com/outagemap](http://www.pse.com/outagemap)
  - When all else fails call their service line at 1-888-CALLPSE to report your outage!

Your local team consists of three team members:
- **Lynn Murphy**, Government Affairs rep and longtime Whidbey Island and Skagit County Resident. lynn.muprhy@pse.com
- **Pinky Vargas**, Energy Efficiency Outreach Manger Bellingham City Council member and Bellingham resident. Pinky.vargas@pse.com
- **Walt Blackford**, Community Services Manger active member of the South Whidbey Community. Walt.blackford@pse.com

Please feel free to reach out to them!

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**Become an Ambassador!**

The Anacortes Chamber Ambassadors are an enthusiastic group of chamber members who help promote and advance the services and programs of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce. As a Chamber Ambassador, you will facilitate the networking of other members as well as contribute to the chamber’s success and build your own valuable business network.

Ambassadors volunteer their time at chamber events, such as Business After Hours, Chamber luncheons, groundbreakings, and ribbon cuttings as well as community events like the Spring Wine Festival, Waterfront Festival, Bier on the Pier, holiday events, and more.

Ambassadors are a key element of the chamber’s membership retention and expansion program. Ambassadors contact chamber members and prospective members throughout the year to help them understand the chamber’s role in the community, how to maximize the many benefits of their membership, and to stress the importance of being actively involved in chamber events and programs.

Finally, ambassadors are a vital communications link between chamber staff, officers, and members, providing valuable feedback to assist in the development of chamber initiatives... and have a great time!!!

To find out more information, contact Sandy Swartos at sswartos@anacortes.org.
Funds Available To Loan to Skagit County Businesses

The Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) currently has over $700,000 dollars available to lend to small businesses in Skagit County. SCOG operates four Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) programs and has loaned approximately $6.4 million dollars to Skagit County businesses since 1985. Loan amounts range from $2,500 to $80,000 depending on which program funds the loan. The purpose of the RLF program is to meet the financing needs of businesses that are unable to obtain conventional bank financing and to create and/or save long-term family wage jobs.

Bank loans are usually the best option for those businesses that qualify. SBA loans tend to be relatively low cost and are available to businesses that may not meet all of the requirements for a bank loan. SCOG’s RLF programs offer affordable financing options to businesses for which conventional bank financing is not an option. An RLF loan may be a preferable alternative to financing via peer to peer financing (Lending Club, Prosper, & etc.) and merchant advance loans which usually come at a very high price.

Generally, SCOG’s loan terms are as follows:
• Fixed interest rates set by SCOG’s Board of Directors
• 1.5% loan origination fee
• Loan term varies, not to exceed useful life of assets acquired

For more information please visit http://chinookenterprises.org; Email: mail@chinookenterprises.org; Phone: 360.428.0140

From humble beginnings, this Skagit-grown company continues to thrive.

Chinook Enterprises celebrates 35 years of service to the Skagit Valley, and its story is a great one. Most are familiar with the company’s mission to support full participation in community life for people with disabilities and other barriers, but few know how this success story began.

Back in 1980, Skagit County Health and Human Services approved a proposal from Rob Martin to provide employment assistance to Skagit residents with developmental disabilities. The contract paid out a meager sum based on billable hours of employment that Martin secured for qualified participants. Armed with a vision and unstoppable determination, Martin drummed up a yard maintenance and landscaping business by walking door-to-door along College Way and Burlington Boulevard.

Martin used his Ford Pinto hatchback to transport employees and equipment to work sites, which took two trips: the first to drop off a combination of used and borrowed lawn equipment, and the second to transport the six-person crew. Within a month, Martin was able to invest $1,000 in a station wagon he bought at an auction and borrowed a trailer from a friend, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Today, Chinook’s grounds maintenance division services over 300 acres a week and stays busy year-round. The company has grown three additional divisions at two locations: Supported Production, Employment Assistance, and an award-winning Contract Assembly Department which has received more than a dozen awards for quality and performance from highly regarded manufacturers like Boeing.

Chinook Enterprises is a Social Enterprise: A non-profit designed to operate like a business. Today the company employs more than 90 people of all talents and abilities and has assisted in the placement of more than 1,000 people.

About Chinook Enterprises:
Chinook Enterprises is a non-profit 501(c)(3). The company’s Industrial Production and Manufacturing Facility is located in Mount Vernon, Washington. The division makes over 100,000 parts for Boeing’s 737, 747 and 777 airliners. Chinook Enterprises was founded in 1980 as a Social Enterprise whose mission is to support full participation in community life for people with disabilities and other barriers.

For more information please visit http://chinookenterprises.org; Email: mail@chinookenterprises.org; Phone: 360.428.0140
Are you an investor interested in startup opportunities?

First Look Forum is a showcase for seed stage companies to practice their presentation in front of VC and Angel investors. See what new business investments are coming down the pipeline and network with other accredited investors in the Northwest.

Are you a startup considering funding options?

First Look Forum prepares startups by having successful entrepreneurs coach participants to improve their stories and techniques. A judging panel of experts challenges your pitch content and skills in front of an audience of investors. The winner gets a $10,000 prize. Applications due October 9th.

For more information visit: http://www.nwirc.com/first-look-forum/
Thanks to Anacortes Candle Company for sponsoring our September Luncheon and to the Majestic Inn & Spa for hosting and preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Bank of the Pacific
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- E-Fresh Design, LLC
- Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living
- Northwest Rigging
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Skagit Publishing

Thank you to Pelican Bay Books and Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon for hosting our September Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Candle Company
- Ace Hardware
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Epicure…for the Passionate Cook
- Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Starbucks
- The Store
- Tides of Anacortes
- Toy Stories
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store
- Washington Federal
- Watermark Book Company

New Members

ACADEMY MORTGAGE CORPORATION
3014 Commercial Ave, Suite A
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-0044
academymortgage.com
Andrya Corral
andrya.corral@academymortgage.com
Real Estate Loans—Founded in 1988, Academy Mortgage is one of the nation’s largest and most respected independent mortgage lenders. Academy’s mission is to be 1st CHOICE in delivering the dream of sustainable homeownership by inspiring hope and building prosperity in the lives of our Employees, Builders, Realtors, and the communities we serve.

SPARKLE
619 Commercial Ave Studio 6
Anacortes, WA 98221
(509) 671-7916
Gloria Whitley
gloria_whitley@yahoo.com
Jewelry—Handmade off-loom beaded jewelry sales, creation and classes. Original pastel paintings and sales.

FIDALGO ARTISAN YARN COMPANY
711 Commercial Avenue, Suite B
Anacortes, WA 98221
(206) 660-5438
Lori Maul
lori@fidalgoartisanyarn.com
Yarn & Needlework Supplies—Boutique yarn shop offering hand dyed and artisan yarns, tools, and classes.

SHEARWATER YACHTS
2415 T Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
(425) 998-8731
shearwateryachtsales.com
Mike Mullenberg
mike@shearwateryachts.com
Boat Dealers—Yacht Broker, New Boat Dealer, Represents Tartan Yachts and Legacy Yachts.
Cathy’s move from Burlington to Anacortes was the fulfillment of a dream to live a more laid back life. After spending 11 years as a controller in a factory, she left the corporate life and opened her own accounting and bookkeeping business, Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC.

Cathy’s journey started right out of high school when she took on the bookkeeping role for a sick co-worker. Finding she enjoyed the work she enrolled at Highline Community College and completed several accounting classes. For the next 20 years she worked several bookkeeping jobs and raised three children. In 1998 she returned to college and in 2002 earned a BA in accounting from Western Washington University. In addition Cathy passed the Enrolled Agents exam in 2010 which allows her the privilege of representing taxpayers before the IRS.

Cathy specializes in small business needs including setting up an accounting system, performing the bookkeeping tasks, payroll and payroll taxes, compliance and internal controls. She can work at your place of business, or from her office. She serves a wide variety of clients including manufacturing, restaurants, not-for-profit, retail and service.

Cathy is a QuickBooks Pro and is currently working on certification in QuickBooks Online.

With a new business to promote, it made sense to join the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and is proud to represent the chamber as an ambassador.

Cathy’s office is located at 3003 Commercial Ave in Anacortes. Hours are by appointment. She may be reached at 360-420-6496. www.cathysab.com.
chamber officers

Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Karin Baldwin Quantum Construction

PRESIDENT ELECT
Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

TREASURER
Carol Van Iterson Bank of the Pacific

PAST PRESIDENT
Mark Lawrence Simply Yards Landscape and Design

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

Board of Directors

Patti Anderson Williams & Nulle
Barbara Atterberry Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Jody Carlisle Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Colleen Craig Windermere Real Estate
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed & Breakfast
Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Gary Jacobson Attorney
Duane Knapp Pearl Buttons
Dennis Richards Island Hospital
Andy Schwenk Northwest Rigging
Chris Terrell How It Works
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

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!
Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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

BIER ON THE PIER
OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2015

30 BREWERIES
6 CIDERIES

Featuring musical acts:
Tubaluba Brass Band
The Clumsy Lovers
Rod Cook/Dean Reichert Duo

Tickets available online at: anacortes.org/beer

Coast in. Hang out.

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