Fidalgo Yacht Club members have been cruising together since 1976. Working from a strong base of dedicated volunteers, FYC has lived up to the goals of its founders. The club schedules educational and training events and organized group cruises from spring through fall each year. Members also boat to popular destinations in Washington, British Columbia and Alaska during the summer with experienced cruisers willingly sharing knowledge and destination ideas with newcomers. They are committed to good seamanship, cruising the Pacific Northwest, friendship, and fun. They invite everyone to come share our adventure!

Please join us Thursday, January 21st from 5:30-7 PM at the Fidalgo Yacht Clubhouse, located at 6046 Sands Way, for a no-host bar and appetizers provided by the Fidalgo Yacht Club. Please RSVP online. Gifts for the giveaway are welcome!
Experience Anacortes

For over the past 18 months members of the staff and the community have been working on a strategy for Anacortes as a one-of-a-kind destination. This scientific process has been facilitated by Duane Knapp from BrandStrategy, who has led countless communities and organizations to their end goal of creating a BrandPromise for themselves and ensuring that Promise is lived out in a broad based fashion.

While various Anacortes organizations may have somewhat different missions, they all have the same interest in creating an exceptional “destination” that is attractive for residents, businesses, guests, new investment and development. Our goal has been to create a collaboration with the entire community to enhance Anacortes’ image, perception and success and create a consensus among key stakeholders for a future strategy that will optimize the economic opportunity for Anacortes.

A successful destination Promise clearly defines the community’s unique and distinctive attributes that offer emotional and functional benefits. It’s not enough to have beautiful scenery, a ferry or even a great park close by. The destination must convey a certain feeling to the visitor that transcends the area’s physical attributes.

The board and staff of your chamber and our partners at the city, port, school district and hospital are proud to announce the final (and sustainable) phase of our project – we will be launching three-hour Promise Learning Experiences beginning this month on January 20 at 1:00 pm at the Majestic Inn’s ballroom.

Our goal is to facilitate these sessions ten times this year, offering community leaders and front line service workers the opportunity to be included in the transformation of our image as we all live out our promise. When a destination thinks and acts like a genuine brand, the entire community understands what the Promise is and how they deliver the right experience.

Please watch for event announcements and be sure to invest in your community, your organization and your staff by reserving space to help create a one-of-a-kind experience for our guest.

President’s Award

The outgoing president has the opportunity to choose a chamber member who has challenged the process and lead the way for continued excellence in our organization. This year, Duane Knapp of BrandStrategy was the recipient. Past President Karin Baldwin presented the award to Mr. Knapp for his stewardship in bringing together community leaders to examine and assess our quaint island village and create a strategy to enhance the experience guests receive when they visit.

“I’m seeing Anacortes differently today than I have in a lifetime of living in this community. This man has opened my eyes to see the beauty and uniqueness of Anacortes in a way that I never have before,” commented Baldwin.

Community Service Award

Each year the chamber honors a community member who has demonstrated excellence and outstanding contributions to our community. This year we are honoring Brian and Kathleen Johnson, owners of Anacortes Construction Services. For years this duo has donated time and money to help make the community Christmas tree lighting celebration a magical experience for the town. For days leading up to the tree lighting the two of them could be found decorating the tree and transforming the chamber lobby into Santa’s village so that the community had a chance to snap a photo with the jolly old man.

This year as they welcomed their new grandson to the family they were able to take a break from most of the heavy lifting. Kathleen couldn’t stay completely away, and again created a whimsical North Pole landscape that delighted children young and old.
member profile

Rockfish Grill/ H2O/ Anacortes Brewery

The Rockfish Grill and the Anacortes Brewery were established by partners Allen Rhoades, Rick Star and Paul Wasik in 2000. The Rockfish celebrated their 15th anniversary last year while the brewery has origins dating back to the old Anacortes Brewhouse established in 1994. The brewery is in fact the 10th oldest continuously operating in the state.

The Rockfish serves fresh Northwest food including steak, seafood, burgers, signature sandwiches and wood fired pizzas along with 16 draft handles of Anacortes Brewery beer. The Brewery, headed by brewmaster Kevin Pierce, produces over 30 different styles annually including a unique barrel aged program. Their beers are available at several establishments around town as well as throughout Whatcom, Island, Skagit, Snohomish, King and San Juan counties.

H2O established in 2012 is located in the same building as the other businesses. H2O’s innovative menu includes special dishes created to pair with their monthly Brewer and Distiller Nights plus an advanced craft cocktail program using house made liquors. Both H2O and the Rockfish host live music every week from top regional and national acts.

The business owners started out as home brewers and first met when they judged a local competition. Wasik went on to become an original owner of the brewhouse joining forces with Allen and Rick to buy the assets and establish the new company six years later. Fun Fact: All three have an aerospace background, Paul being a former naval flight instructor at NAS Whidbey, Rick and Allen being former military aerospace engineers for the Boeing Company.

meet your board

Rob Mellish

When Dixie David retired as manager at the Anacortes Heritage Bank branch last December, Rob immediately made it known to the hiring manager that he was interested. Previously managing a branch in Lynnwood after 15 years in administrative roles in marketing, Finance and product management, Rob had wanted to go back to his roots in community branch management.

But in Lynnwood, Rob felt like a “fish out of water.” A true “community banker,” Anacortes was the opportunity he had been waiting for; a city with a small town feel, a city with a defined central business district, a city with a historical identity that has been maintained, a city with a strong support for schools, a city with a strong economic foundation and a diversity of current and future economic opportunities.

Rob is married to Kelli, and has four children – two at home. With a senior in high school, Rob plans to put their house on the market this spring and make the move to Anacortes. Now a member of the noon Kiwanis club, Rob is looking forward to becoming involved with the schools and local scouting. Maybe his youngest (8) will become a sea scout?

With the chamber, Rob has enjoyed volunteering at the Wine Festival and Bier on the Pier, but his specific area of interest is in economic development. Rob, who has lived on Whidbey Island for 21 years, spent many years working with the Island Economic Development Council, both as a board member and as a banker. A plaque in Langley mentions Rob’s assistance in bringing about the donation of some land and obtaining an agreement so a visitor center and public bathrooms could be constructed next to the bank he worked for at the time. Collaborative by nature, Rob enjoys bringing different groups together and working to reach consensus on an agreed upon direction.

And perhaps someday you may see Rob on the stage: in the past, Rob played the role of Seymour (Methow Valley Theatre) and the evil dentist Orin (Whidbey Theatre – Langley) in Little Shop of Horrors.

Pictured above from left to right: Kelli Mellish, Will Mellish, Rob Mellish, Even Mellish, and Drew Mellish in the front.
Anacortes Coastal Christmas

We hope that you had a chance to join us at the community Christmas tree lighting this year. We want thank to the following groups for making the tree lighting ceremony such a special evening for our community: Mt Erie Mustangs elementary choir, Island View Elementary choir, the An-O-Chords, Fidalgo Danceworks, Town Crier Rich Riddell, Mayor Laurie Gere, Chamber President Chris Long, and of course Santa. Thanks also to the Salvation Army for bringing their brass band and hot cocoa truck for the community to enjoy.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in bringing this year’s community Christmas tree to life. Thanks to Bret Andrich of Puget Sound Prawn Co-Op for lending us close to 100 prawn pots to construct the tree, Jason Dunton of Dunton’s Welding for creating our “trunk,” Costco Wholesale for donating all of the cedar garland for the tree, the Anacortes High School Arts Club for making gorgeous starfish, the Boys and Girls Club of Anacortes for decorating the cork buoy ornaments, Mary LaFleur and Jerry Parker with ALT Insurance, Andy Schwenk with NW Rigging, Jason Dunton, and the chamber ambassadors for helping construct and decorate the tree, Kathleen Johnson of Anacortes Construction Services for decorating the lobby, Village Pizza for feeding all of our workers, Birch Equipment for the lift, and SignDog NW for our banner. We loved how this tree brought so many people in our community together, reflecting the spirit of our town.

We hope that everyone enjoyed this year’s unique tree. It was truly meant to be a tribute to the fishing and marine heritage of our town and we hope it can become a new tradition for the community to celebrate!

pictured clockwise: Jerry Parker and Laura Hartner stringing garland, Jason Dunton and Mary LaFleur stacking pots, Andy Schwenk and Jerry Parker placing the final pots, the An-O-Chords, and the Mt Erie Mustang Singers.
White Lights & Bright Colors

The holiday season was in full swing here in Anacortes this December. The snowflakes twinkled on the lampposts uptown, and the trees downtown were full of bright white lights. Businesses all over Anacortes added to the festive feel by decorating their buildings and storefronts. The winners of this year’s uptown decoration competition are: First place – Strandberg Construction, second place – Penguin Coffee, third place – Gidget’s Barber Shop. The winners for the downtown decoration competition are: First place – In Stitches Quilt Shoppe, second place – Tides of Anacortes, third place – Camwood Jewelers. Thanks to all of the businesses that participated.

Visitor Information Center Holiday Appreciation Party

The Majestic Inn and Spa hosted the Visitor Information Center Volunteers holiday party last month in their gorgeous ballroom. Many thanks to the whole Majestic staff for the wonderful decorations, food and drink, and overall generous hospitality. The Visitor Center is managed by a group of dedicated people who give to their business community each and every day and once a year they are treated to a special celebration of thanks. Many businesses in town also provided gifts to the volunteers in appreciation. Thanks so much!

- Ace Hardware
- ACT Theatre
- ALT Insurance
- Anacortes Candle Company
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
- Anne Smith
- Anthony’s Restaurant
- Barrett Financial, Ltd
- Cap Sante Inn
- Chandler’s Square Retirement Community
- Classic Style & Co
- Costco Wholesale
- Deception Pass Tours
- Donatello Gifts
- Edward Jones - Gary Thramer
- Epicure...for the Passionate Cook
- Island Hospital
- Mystic Sea Charters
- Native Springs Spa
- Orcas Island Whale Watch
- Portalis
- Rejuventation Station
- Scott Milo Gallery
- Sebo’s Hardware
- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- The Shrimp Shack
- The Store
- Think Studios
- Toy Stories
- Watermark Bookstore
Women Boot Camp

Women entrepreneurs: Come to EDASC’s Women’s Business Boot Camp, an all-day workshop specifically designed to tune up or start-up your business. You’ll learn how to write or revamp a business plan, find funding, learn about marketing and crowdfunding, get lucrative government contracts, and much, much more! Includes lunch and refreshments. Features speakers from the Small Business Administration (SBA), Small Business Development Center, the Office of Minority & Women Owned Businesses, Washington PTAC and more. Location is at Seafarers’ Memorial in Anacortes. 8:30am – 4:00pm. $50 or $40 streaming. Presented in partnership by EDASC and the San Juan County Economic Development Council. Register online at www.skagit.org.

2015 Ambassadors

Taylor Bannister—Boys & Girls Club
Jessica Cantrell—RE/MAX Gateway
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Linda Harvey—Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Dan Maul—Classic Style & Co.
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Cathy Rockwell—Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Co.
Carla Schipper—Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary
Boyd Veer—Seaside Auto Body

Your name could be here too— Join the Ambassadors. Call the chamber to learn more.

member renewals

- American Cancer Society
- Anacortes Marina
- Anne Martin McCool Studio/Gallery
- Barrett Financial, Ltd.
- Bayshore Office Products, Inc.
- Calico Cupboard Old Town Bakery
- Cascades Job Yachts
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Flooring Connections Int., Inc.
- Impressions Salon and Day Spa
- Kerry Dyson Allen
- Lakeside Industries
- Lopez Island Creamery
- Louis Auto Glass, Inc.
- Marine Detail Specialists
- Molly McIntosh
- OASYS, Inc.
- Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors
- Philip Madden W. D.D.S.
- PND Engineers, Inc.
- Quantum Construction
- RadioShack Anacortes Dealer
- Ship Harbor Yacht Charters
- Skyline Marine Center/Skyline Marina
- Skyline Moorage Sales
- Sturdy Engineering Corporation
- Transpac Marinas, Inc.
- Village Pizza/The Wheelhouse

new members

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www.ElectronicBusinessMachines.com
Mike Mahoney
mike.mahoney@ebmco.com

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LINDA ANN LIPKE
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Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 708-7770
lalipke@gmail.com
Individual Member

thanks...

Thank you to Skagit Publishing and Anacortes American for sponsoring our December Luncheon and to Gere-a-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize and/or food for the food bank.

- Anacortes American
- City of Anacortes
- Costco Wholesale
- Edward Jones – Gary Thramer AAMS
- Edward Jones – Jeff Pleet
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Lighthouse Memory Care
- Louis Auto Glass
- Northwest Yachts
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Scott Richards Insurance
- Skagit Publishing
- Washington Federal

Thank you to San Juan Lanes for hosting our December Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Ace Hardware
- Anacortes Candle Company
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Focus Digital Marketing
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- Jolly Mon Charters
- Kiwanis Sunrisers
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery/H2O
- Sparkle
- Total Home Services
- Vicki Stasch
Taylor moved to Anacortes in 1995. While she was not born here, she still considers it her hometown, as memories of life before Anacortes are few and far between. Taylor began working at the Anacortes Boys & Girls Club in 2007 as a “summer job” and quickly realized that she was where she belonged. She has been with the Club ever since, working through each position available before becoming Interim Club Director in January 2015, and officially taking the title of Director in August 2015. Her passions outside of the Club include Photography (she just launched her photography business, FoxLight, in October) and theater - she can be seen in at least one show a year on the Anacortes Community Theatre stage. Currently Taylor lives with her husband Noah and daughter Hadley in Burlington, but is looking forward to a move back to her beloved Anacortes very soon. As an avid supporter of this beautiful town in which she grew up, Taylor is proud to serve as an ambassador for the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce.

**Scholarships Available**

At this time of year, after all of the holiday madness has passed, it’s time for students to really start thinking about heading off to college and with that comes filling out applications for scholarships and financial aid. You hear all the time how there is plenty of available money out there, you just need to know where to look.

Below is a list that the Anacortes High School provided us that includes local organizations that have scholarship available. Most of these groups offer monies for young students, but some also have assistance for “head of household” and adult learning applicants. Not all are currently listed on the school’s website, but will become available during the months ahead, February through May. Please be sure to check the counseling website weekly.

- A.C.T.
- Anacortes Elks
- Anacortes Para Educators
- Anacortes Educators Association
- Kiwanis Sunrisers
- Kiwanis Noon
- Anacortes Lions Club
- P.E.O groups
- Masons Fidalgo Lodge
- USW Local 12-591
- Prowler Roost
- AHS PTSA
- Anacortes Rotary
- Dorothy Etter-Madrona Chapter
- Officers Spouses Club of Whidbey Island
- Chuckanut Valley Veterinary Clinic
- AAVW Anacortes Branch
- Whidbey Island Officers Association
- Beta Sigma Phi
- Guemes Island Environmental Trust
- Matheson Family Trust
- Puget Sound Anglers Fidalgo Chapter
- Samish Indian Nation
- SABA
- Soroptomist
- Ray Wittman Scholarship Fund
- Frank & Joan Todd (Marine Corps)
- Eagles Auxiliary
- Daughter of the American Revolution

The website link for information at the high school is: [http://ahs.asd103.org/pages/Anacortes_High_School/Parent_Student_Resources/AHS_Counseling_Center/Counseling_Center_Documents/Financial_Aid_Scholarships](http://ahs.asd103.org/pages/Anacortes_High_School/Parent_Student_Resources/AHS_Counseling_Center/Counseling_Center_Documents/Financial_Aid_Scholarships)

The Anacortes Schools Foundation also has a list of available scholarships at: [http://www.anacortesschoolsfoundation.org/our-programs/scholarships-66.html](http://www.anacortesschoolsfoundation.org/our-programs/scholarships-66.html)

Good luck students! We can’t wait to hear of all of your successes and journeys.
Executive Board

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PRESIDENT ELECT
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

TREASURER
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed and Breakfast

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
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Karin Baldwin Quantum Construction

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Laura Harter 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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