Whether you suffer from chronic sleeplessness; feel tired when you awaken; snore loudly; choke, gasp or hold your breath when asleep; or find yourself tired during the day – the Island Hospital Sleep Wellness Center (SWC) can help. They also provides services for pediatric patients and their families. It is estimated that as many as 30% of children may have a sleep disorder.

The SWC sees patients at a specially designed facility in Anacortes. Super-insulated for sound control, the facility has four patient rooms, designed for comfort and relaxation, each with its own private bath, fully adjustable bed for comfort and satellite television. The facility is designed to offer maximum comfort and convenience for patients, with larger rooms and private bathrooms that allow them to transition to or from work without disrupting their normal routines. Using the latest in sleep-study technology, our Board-Certified Sleep Medicine physician Robert Reyna MD will monitor and evaluate your vital respiratory, circulatory and brain functions.

Please join us on February 11, 2016 at the Majestic Inn & Spa Ballroom for a presentation from Jensen Lovett on the Anacortes Community Energy competition and a workshop from Philip Prud’homme on using the concepts of improv in networking.

Jensen Lovelett is representing the City of Anacortes’ $5,000,000 national energy competition prize effort, Anacortes Community Energy (ACE). The ACE group is running the first ever home vs home energy efficiency competition in the effort to inspire Anacortes residents to pursue energy savings. This game is exclusive to Anacortes and features cash and prizes to the Biggest Energy Loser. Jensen will talk about how businesses can participate in this competition.

After Lovelett’s presentation, Philip Prud’homme will take guests through the three basic concepts of performing improv, showing how they can be used in the workplace, at home, and in all places where positive communication improves connections, builds on the strengths of one another, and moves us forward. Get ready for this interactive program focused on fun and communication!

Our February luncheon is sponsored by SignDog NW which opened in Anacortes in 2015. SignDog NW is focused on the belief that every customer deserves a design and sign to match their individual needs. From boat lettering to car wraps, a-boards to storefront signage, websites and social media to local print ads, SignDog NW help customers create the right message and platform to meet their needs. SignDog NW is located at 2900 T Ave (across the street from SeaBear). They welcome you to stop by and take the first step in helping your business reach your customers.

The lunch will take place at the Majestic Inn & Spa ballroom at 419 Commercial Avenue, from 11:30am to 1pm. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $15 rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $18. Please bring a gift for the giveaway!
Experience Anacortes

Next Steps - The Entire Community Takes Part

Last month’s newsletter outlined the strategy for Anacortes as a destination with an update on where we’ve been, how we got there and where we are going! Here are some quotes from our first Promise Learning Experience. Make sure you set aside time in the months ahead to invest in this powerful learning opportunity.

“Going through the Promise Learning Experience and recognizing the unique assets of Anacortes makes it easy to know how to make people feel welcome and provide a one-of-a-kind experience to our guests,” said immediate past board president, Karin Baldwin, owner of Quantum Construction. “I’m seeing Anacortes differently today than I have in a lifetime of living in this community,” continued Baldwin. “My eyes have been opened to see the beauty and uniqueness of Anacortes in a way I never have before.”

Other participants said: “It is wonderful to have leaders (officers) intentional about welcoming guests. It is critical to have residents/employers “all in” personally. This session emphasized success is only possible in partnership.” and “An experience every Anacortesan should participate in!”

Partnership with AAA Magazine Highlights Anacortes

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, acting as the DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) has been advertising with AAA Western Journey for many years. Thanks to this well-established relationship, we were able to partner with the magazine and local merchants to offer a prize package giveaway to one AAA member.

The promotion was free of charge, and the chamber receives the contact information of every person who has entered the giveaway. This partnership will help to increase awareness of Anacortes as an island destination, and will bring two lucky people here to experience our hospitality.

win a journey (from journey)

Package for two includes: a two-night stay at the Majestic Inn & Spa, located in the historic McNaught Building, plus a half-day outing with Anacortes Kayak Tours, dinner at the 5th Street Bistro, and special discounts and offers from other Anacortes businesses.

Apply Online Today!

Applying for a home loan is now easier & more convenient.
RealEstate.BankofthePacific.com

All loans subject to credit approval. Certain fees and restrictions may apply.
Anthony’s is committed to bringing their guests the freshest seafood possible, which is why they established their own seafood company in 1984. Budd wanted to ensure that his guests received top quality seafood from throughout the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii. His dedication for fresh seafood has provided guests with selections such as Wild King and Sockeye Salmon, Alaska halibut, rockfish, lingcod, clams, mussels and oysters.

Anthony’s complements their quality seafood with the finest northwest products served at the peak of their seasons. Their “Best of the Season” program is based on one-on-one relationships with local farmers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Some of the featured seasonal produce includes local strawberries, peaches, huckleberries and vine-ripened tomatoes. Their commitment to the Northwest is further showcased by a strong focus on Washington wines and an emphasis on local microbrews.

Anthony’s at Cap Sante Marina plans to open an extension to their existing location spring of 2016. The Cabana will be a casual, seafood restaurant with a classic “to-go fish and chips” bar featuring ample open-air dining as well as two Bocce Ball courts on the outside perimeter. “We are so excited to open a second restaurant at the Cap Sante Marina”, says Budd. “The community has been so wonderful to us since we opened in 2011. We are pleased to offer a second, more casual dining opportunity for our local guests and visitors to Anacortes.”

In 2010, Peter began serving his first term on the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board and soon was named Treasurer on the Executive Board. During that time, he was instrumental in helping get the Anacortes Marine Trade Association organized as well as working with the chamber, the Port of Anacortes, and Passagemaker Magazine in bringing TrawlerFest here for their annual event.

In late 2015, Peter was very pleased to be asked to serve another term on the chamber board (which began in November).

Other than building his own business, Peter’s main focus is in helping foster a vibrant marine trades business climate in Anacortes. He believes that with the chamber’s help and a coordinated effort by all the local marine businesses, Anacortes will become the hub of marine business activity for all of the Pacific Northwest.
Looking for a way to promote your business this spring? The Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is a great opportunity to highlight your business, show community involvement and be part of a weekend of activities in Anacortes this April. 1,000 guests will flock to the historic Port Warehouse on April 9, 2016 to sip wines from a selection of 30 wines from across Washington State and taste delicious bites created by our local caterers and restaurants. Wines will be available for sale at the event with a 10% discount off the retail price.

The town will be hopping all weekend with the Anacortes Spring Boat Show running Friday through Sunday at the Cap Sante Marina and the Anacortes Winter Farmers Market at the Depot on Saturday morning from 9am-2pm. Promote your business to all of these visitors as a sponsor of the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival. Sponsorships are available at many levels and all include business listings on our website and event program along with inclusion in our social media promotions leading up to the event. Contact Laura Hartner at the chamber (360-293-7911) for more information.

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and Unique Romance Travel present...

**Sunny Portugal - Estoril Coast, Alentejo, & Algrave**

*with an optional Madeira Island post tour extension*

**November 11-20, 2016**

Join us for a special travel presentation on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6pm at Seafarers Memorial Park (601 Seafarers Way).

For more information, discounts, and to RSVP for the presentation, contact Carla Schipper with Unique Romance Travel (360) 293-4856 carla@uniqueromancetravel.com www.UniqueRomanceTravel.com
Keep the Cheer Here

Keep the Cheer Here celebrated another locally-focused holiday shopping season in 2015. With over 10,000 punch cards printed out and 4,063 punch cards turned in this year, the team behind this project estimates at least $460,000 was kept in Anacortes.

Again this year, thanks to 41 merchants participating in the program, there were two grand prize winners. We give congratulations to Janice Peterson and Therese Kingsbury, both of Anacortes. They took shopping locally to heart, and each took home $500 in gift certificates from retailers—that’s twenty $25 gift certificates from the following retailers (chamber members are indicated with an * asterisk):

- Ace Hardware *
- Alley Cat Antiques *
- Anacortes Health & Nutrition *
- Anacortes Candle Company *
- Anacortes Chocolate Shoppe
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar *
- The Apothecary Spa *
- AwesomeSomething
- Bayshore Office Products *
- Boxes and Bears *
- Buer’s Floral and Vintage *
- Burton Jewelers
- Camwood Jewelers *
- Classic Style & Company *
- Donatello Gifts *
- Elisabeth’s Cottage by the Sea
- Epicure . . . for the Passionate Cook *
- Fidalgo Artisan Yarn Company *
- Forget Me Not Scrapbooking
- Gifts & More at Island Hospital *
- The Good Stuff *
- Horizon Audio, Video & Security
- In Stitches Quilt Shoppe *
- Island Styles
- Johnny Picasso’s
- Marine Supply & Hardware*
- Pearl Buttons *
- Pelican Bay Books *
- Portal Coffee & Tea
- RadioShack *
- The Red Snapper
- Re-Feather Your Nest *
- Scott Milo at the Framemaker *
- SeaBear/Made in Washington Stores *
- Sebo’s Hardware *
- Sheely’s Floral & Gifts *
- Skagit Cycle *
- Sparkle *
- Tides of Anacortes *
- Toy Stories *
- Watermark Book Company *

We had a special visitor to the community prawn pot tree just before we took it down for the year. This tired little saw-whet owl decided to rest on the backside of the tree, next to the building. She was quite popular among the locals, who quietly stopped by to snap a picture. She certainly put a smile on our face, and is welcome to visit again next year!

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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.
February 4, 2016

Eat out & the profits from your meal will be donated to help homeless women, children, and families in our community!

Participating Restaurants Include:
- Breakfast: Whidbey Coffee, Johnny Picassos, Dad’s Diner
- Lunch: Gere-a-Deli, Rockfish Grill, Dad’s Diner, Pizza Factory
- Dinner: Adrift, Brown Lantem, 5th Street Bistro, Papa Murphy’s Pizza Factory, Rockfish Grill, Secret Cove

A Fundraiser Benefiting: The Anacortes Family Center

2015 Ambassadors

Taylor Bannister—Boys & Girls Club
Jessica Cantrell—RE/MAX Gateway
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Shaunna Marrs—People’s Bank
Dan Maul—Classic Style & Co.
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Bill Robards—Simply Yards Landscape & Design
Cathy Rockwell—Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Company
Carla Schipper—Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary

Your name could be here too—
Join the Ambassadors. Learn more about your community, connect with business professionals, and enjoy outings such as the one below to Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon. Call the chamber to learn more.

new members

DUANE CLARK
PO Box 439
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-202-8557
capsantecourt@gmail.com
Individual Member

SHANNON LLENZA IMMIGRATION LAW
1015 14th Street, Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-862-2392
www.sllenzaimmigrationlaw.com
Shannon Llenza
shannon@llenzalaw.com
Immigration Legal Services

SKAGIT SIGNAL
4759 West Shore Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-389-2106
www.skagitsignal.com
Cheryl Mansley
boostingyourbroadband@skagitsignal.com
A computer and business networks company that provides honest, reliable, and knowledgeable technical assistance to residential and commercial customers.

UMPOQUA BANK
1914 15th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-937-0950
www.umpquabank.com
Dimi Hartman
dimihartman@umpquabank.com
Our Anacortes branch is a retail home lending department.

UNION TAVERN
902 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-873-2106
www.facebook.com/uniontavernlocal902
Dave Yoder
dieyoder@gmail.com
A sports-forward, classic American tavern in the heart of downtown Anacortes. 16 beers on tap and delicious pub fare at a reasonable price.

thanks...

Thank you to Youth Dynamics for sponsoring our January Luncheon and to Vivi’s Kitchen for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Chicago Title Company
- City of Anacortes
- Express Employment Professionals
- Jennings Chiropractic
- Jolly Mon Charters
- Louis Auto Glass
- Molly McIntosh
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Peoples Bank
- Bill Short
- Scott Richards Insurance
- Shannon Llenza Immigration Law
- SignDog NW

Thank you to the Fidalgo Yacht Club for hosting our January Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.
- Ace Hardware
- ALT Insurance
- Anacortes Candle Company
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
- Tom & Dianne Kuhn
- Fidalgo Yacht Club
- RIS Insurance Services
- Skagit Cycle

member renewals

- Anacortes Financial Associates
- Coldwell Banker Bain
- Construction Unlimited, Inc.
- Creative Accomplice
- Curt Oppel - John L Scott Real Estate
- Gateway Bed & Breakfast, The
- How It Works
- Island Hospital Foundation
- Marc L. Estvold AIA
- Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.
- Take Shape For Life with Veronica Spencer
- Thrive Community Fitness
- Vivi’s Kitchen
Rich Heidecker

Rich Heidecker, the first baby born in 1966 in Trenton, NJ, moved to Anacortes from San Diego in 2002 and worked in construction for 20 years until 2007, when he accepted a full-time position with Youth Dynamics (YD). In the years since, he has fully dedicated himself to working with and for the youth of our community. He has worked his way up the ladder from Area Staff to Area Director, then to Communities Director, and most recently he stepped into the Western Washington Regional Director position. His passion is to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with northwest teens, and to serve his staff team in a way that empowers them to be more effective in their ministries. One of the reasons Rich chose to work for YD remains that he can be in long-term relationships with adolescents, walking through life’s challenges with them, and engaging them in outdoor adventures. His personal interests include backpacking, biking, running, kayaking, watching football, and hammocking. Rich has been a chamber member since 2012, and has served as an Ambassador for the majority of that time. As of December, Rich is also part of the Membership Division. In addition to serving the community through involvement with the chamber, Rich also puts a ton of energy into making Anacortes a safe place for youth. He has been involved with the Anacortes Drug Task Force since its inception, and in 2015 Rich joined the Mount Erie Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter.

Lead Volunteer for the Visitor Center Celebrates a Milestone

Wilma Cooper and husband Blynn have had the pleasure of being Anacortes residents for 26 years since moving to the area for their retirement. “What’s not to love about Anacortes? We have small town living, beautiful mountains close by, lots of water, boats, beautiful parks and friendly happy people.” Said Wilma.

This June the Coopers will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. The two were married right after WWII. During the war, Wilma helped in the USO entertaining troops awaiting deployment, meanwhile Blynn was an officer in US Merchant Marines.

They lived in Seattle for eight years, where Blynn was a Seattle police officer and their daughters were born. They then bought a dairy farm in Rochester, Washington, which they operated for eight years until Blynn broke his back. A few months later they sold the farm and took their three high school age daughters to Australia to give them a more worldly education. They bought a commercial boat and Blynn fished for prawns (with a back brace on). Wilma learned how to mend the trawl nets and managed a seaside Milk Bar, part of a motel, restaurant complex. They came back home to the states in 1967.

Wilma went to work at Sears Mail Order Plant for 20 years, the last ten as a supervisor of 50 people. Blynn fished in Alaska for a few years then went to work for the Port of Seattle as the supervisor of Fisherman’s Terminal.

Wilma feels lucky to have had a life of hard work and fun. The last 23 years she has enjoyed working with a great bunch of volunteers at the Anacortes Visitor’s Center. Please join us in thanking Wilma for her dedication to our community and the visitors’ center. Congratulations to the Coopers on 70 years of wedded bliss!

Shared Work Program helping more than 700 Washington businesses

Washington businesses big and small continue to avoid layoffs using the Employment Security Department’s Shared Work Program.

Even as Washington’s unemployment rate has dropped to nearly, 5 percent, more than 700 businesses in the state continue to use the program. That’s because Shared Work can be helpful not only during a recession or uneven economic times, but also when a supplier’s delivery is delayed or a road construction project has disturbed traffic outside their business.

Whatever the reason, Shared Work has kept workers employed.

“We were able to retain our core employees and stay in business during the recession. This is one of the best programs the state offers for businesses” – Comment from 2015 survey of Shared Work employers

Washington’s program is so effective at preventing layoffs, the U.S. Department of Labor recently promoted it as a model for other states, encouraging them to set up their own programs.

What makes Shared Work so successful? It allows employers to reduce the hours of their permanent employees from a flexible 10 to 50 percent, and those employees then receive a corresponding portion of unemployment benefits. Employers lower payroll costs and keep their skilled workers when hours are short; and employees earn more than if completely laid off and can return to regular hours when business picks up.

The 2015 survey of participating businesses showed positive reviews from both employees and employers. In fact, 98 percent of the employers surveyed said they would recommend Shared Work to other businesses going through similar situations.

Find more information and a video about Shared Work on Employment Security’s website at www.esd.wa.gov/shared-work.

Wilma Cooper and husband Blynn...
Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

PRESIDENT ELECT
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

TREASURER
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed and Breakfast

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

PAST PRESIDENT
Karin Baldwin Quantum Construction

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Patti Anderson Williams & Nulle
Barbara Atterberry Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Colleen Craig Windermere Real Estate
Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company
Duane Knapp Pearl Buttons
Mary LaFleur ALT Insurance
Rob Mellish Heritage Bank
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Chris Terrell How It Works
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District #103
Peter Whiting Northwest Yachts
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

Chamber Staff

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

Thank you, volunteers!

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Experience Anacortes™
Your Island Getaway

ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH

Decadent Washington Wine Tastings
Food Bites from Local Restaurants
Beautiful Intimate Island Setting

VIP Hour from 12 noon to 1:00pm
General Admission 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Tickets include etched tasting glass, unlimited wine tasting, food bites, chocolate & cheese tastings.

Visit anacortes.org/spring to learn more!

Must be 21 or older with valid ID. No children or pets allowed.
Port Warehouse Event Center; 1st & Commercial Anacortes, WA 98221

Coast in. Hang out.™