**chamber luncheon**

Port of Anacortes Executive Director Dan Worra will deliver the annual, “State of the Port” address at the chamber luncheon, June 9th at the Port’s Transit Shed Event Center. Dan is excited to share the Port’s accomplishments of the past year and to highlight business operations, events and upcoming projects. The mission of the Port is to, in partnership with public agencies and private business, develop and manage facilities and services, which stimulate private job creation and commerce, while protecting the quality of life, needs and desires of area residents. In keeping with its mission, the Port is an important economic engine for Anacortes with Port tenants providing more than 1,000 jobs in our community. Come hear how the Port is working for the benefit of Anacortes residents and visitors alike.

The luncheon is sponsored by ALT Insurance. Mary LaFleur has been in the insurance industry for over 30 years. There were few women in the industry when she started, but today there are many! She has seen lots of changes to the insurance business during this time, including the way companies treat their clients and agents. Throughout this time Mary has sustained the importance of loyalty in her relationships with her clients. ALT Insurance provides marine, home, and auto insurance. In addition to owning her agency, Mary also owned a funeral home for four years. Having many deaths in her family she wanted to find ways to make the process less expensive, more user friendly, and compassionate for the families. She will be doing seminars soon to share information that can save families grief and expenses.

The luncheon will take place at the Port of Anacortes Transit Shed Event Center (100 Commercial Avenue) and will be catered by Gere-a-Deli. 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. Please bring a gift for a giveaway!

**business after hours**

Classic Style and Company and Fidalgo Artisan Yarn Company are delighted to host the June Business After Hours. In their shops, guests step into a world of the senses filled with lush textures and gorgeous, inspirational color. Come in and experience boutique shopping at its very best. At Classic Style and Company, they feature both classic and uncommon clothing lines as well as an array of beautiful one-of-a-kind work by local designers and artisans.

Fidalgo Artisan Yarn Company specializes in its own hand-dyed yarns and rovings as well as other artisan yarns in various weights and a wide range of fibers. They have supplies for the knitter, weaver, and spinner. Come on by, sign up for a class, purchase an exclusive needle wrangler or yarn bowl, and find the perfect yarn for your next project. Let’s get creative! Find out more at classicstyleco.com or fidalgoyarns.com

Please join Dan and Lori Maul and Emily McNeil at 711 Commercial Avenue on Thursday, June 16th from 5:30pm-7pm. We look forward to seeing you. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the giveaway!
Experience Anacortes Promise:
Discover our beautiful island getaway, where everyone is welcomed as a guest! An authentic, vibrant seacoast community with wonderful weather and real people.

On behalf of the entire community, the chamber of commerce is continuing to rollout the most important phase of our Experience Anacortes – your island getaway, which is Brand Culturalization. Many have said we don’t need a “branding program” – other towns don’t have them and they stay unique – to those people I say our brand is our promise and how we deliver it to people. We are not tattooing ourselves with a logo or merely rolling out a tagline. Instead we are making paradigm shifts in how people feel about our community.

From the start of this project in 2014, our guide, Duane Knapp, has said this is a journey of self-discovery – how will each of us deliver on the Promise and how we want other people to feel.

Since attending my first experience, I have decided to greet people differently – I no longer ask “how are you doing?” – but instead truly greet people – “good morning,” “hello,” and my personal favorite – “it’s good to see you.” I find by actively changing my greeting, I am actively changing my attitude, and I experience people differently.

A personal mission of mine is “Let them In!” I live on the west side of the island off of Oakes Avenue. Most of the time I plan my departure to not coincide with ferry arrivals. However, there are times where my schedule smacks against the ferry arrival time. When that happens, I get to the bottom of the hill, roll down my window and smile and wave until someone lets me in. When they do, I energetically wave my gratitude. At each intersection where cars are backed up – I wave them in and continue to reward the car behind me by waving and smiling. My “commute” has me take a left on O Ave, and inevitably the savior that let me in passes me on the right. Nine times out of 10, they smile back at me.

Make little changes and paradigms shift!

To date over 200 community members have attended a Promise Learning Experience, and each of them has made a statement on how they plan to bring our Promise to life. These interactive, upbeat sessions gather attendees together to learn more about how to Experience Anacortes – your island getaway.

We are holding another Promise Learning Experience on June 15th from 1:30 – 4:30 pm at the Majestic Inn & Spa Ballroom. – I hope to see you at there.

meet your board

Allen Workman - Accidental Tourist Makes Anacortes Home

Allen Workman and his wife Sarah were informed that their son-in-law was accepting a position in a little town they had never heard of, Anacortes, WA. The Workman’s drove thier daughter and two grandchildren up the coast of California and Oregon to their new home in the Pacific Northwest. Saddened by their children’s move to Anacortes, Allen and Sarah decided to join them and are so happy they did.

The Workman’s both embraced their new home and have immersed themselves in business, politics and the chamber. Allen spent 25 years in the High Tech sector as an engineer and manager for both public and private organizations. In 2005, Allen embarked on a new challenge, real estate, building a successful business.

As a real estate broker, Allen found new challenges in helping clients buy and sell residential property, evaluating land development for developers and builders, and enticing business operators to buy commercial properties. Allen enjoys the variety and complexon of real estate and strives for a positive outcome for every opportunity his clients pursue.

Allen dedicates time to community service and participating in the growth challenges facing Anacortes. As a long time member of Kiwanis Sunrisers he enjoys contributing to the youth and worthy service organizations of the town, including volunteering as a participant on the Facilities Committee for the bond measure that resulted in the new High School. As a chamber board member he serves on the Economic Development Committee and is actively involved with the Comprehensive Plan that plans to bring forth changes, opportunities, and new vitality in the form of retail, office, industrial and marine businesses. Anacortes is a great place to live and work and Allen encourages others to seek out this island gem for their home or business.
Louella May Bergeson (Lou)

Lou was born in Anacortes in 1934, graduating from Sedro-Woolley High School in 1952. Her first job was cook at Max Dales Restaurant, then a telephone operator for West Coast Telephone Company.

In 1956, Lou became the receptionist and switchboard operator for Shell Oil Company. She married her sweetheart Joseph Schorno, but Joe was tragically killed in a small plane accident one and a half years later.

Lou was the princess for the Marineer’s Pageant in 1957, and also starred in the Elks & Eagles Club Follies, fundraising for their many charities.

Later, Lou again found happiness when she married a co-worker, Dick Bergeson, who had started with Shell Oil in 1955. They have two children, two grandsons and two great-grandsons! Motherhood was a whirlwind of kids, love, fun, dogs and Lou’s Arabian horse.

Lou likes to draw, paint, sing, swim, photograph, cruise, travel, visit Kauai, dance and Polynesian dancing. She also volunteered at the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival for many years and has been a 4-H leader since 1972.

In 1981, Lou and Dick moved back to Fidalgo Island and in 1995, she became a volunteer at the Anacortes Visitor Information Center. Lou enjoys meeting people from all over the world, helping them find the wonders of her favorite island, the boating, hiking, fishing and the interesting downtown businesses who have such good selections.

Lou’s favorite thing about Anacortes and Fidalgo Island is the people, a community of wonderful accommodating people, all showing friendship, fun and helpfulness!

Photo below is of Lou from the 1989 Eagles production of “The King and I.”

The Anacortes Boys & Girls Clubs GREAT Futures Breakfast on May 19th raised just over $34,000 to support targeted programming at the Anacortes Club. THANK YOU to the Anacortes Community for your continued support and for helping to provide GREAT Futures for the 300+ Youth served at the Anacortes Club!
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Celebration of Life Ceremony for Bill & Lynn Berry

Bill and Lynn Berry were long time members of the Anacortes community. They moved to Anacortes in the 1960’s with their young family from Seattle where Bill had been in the radio business for years. Bill and Lynn had purchased KAGT/KLKI radio station and ran the community based radio station for 45+ years.

Bill and Lynn participated in many community activities including the Anacortes Arts Festival, Jazz Festival, numerous fundraisers for the community and schools, broadcasting Anacortes High School games, Soroptimist, Island Hospital, and Anacortes Chamber of Commerce board president.

Lynn and Bill are survived by their daughter, son, four siblings, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

A Celebrations of Life will be held on June 23rd Seafarer’s Memorial Park Building at 1:00pm. This date would have been Lynn and Bill’s 54th Wedding Anniversary.

anacortes in bloom contest

We are excited to announce the Anacortes in Bloom contest this year, encouraging businesses throughout Anacortes to enhance the vibrancy of our island with the use of flowers, foliage, and fun details. Whether you have flowers in the ground or displays in containers, we want to celebrate your commitment to making Anacortes - and Fidalgo Island - more beautiful.

The contest begins on June 1st. Throughout the following months, businesses that choose to participate will be featured on both the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, and the tourism-focused Experience Anacortes Facebook page. This is a great way to get your business in front of over 3500+ people!

What qualifies as a display? Many things! Here are some ideas to get you started:
• Flower beds around your business with bright plants and flowers
• Concrete, plastic, resin, clay, ceramic, wood, or wicker containers with flowers
• Metal and coconut coil hanging baskets with fuschia, petunias, or trumpet vines
• An old fashioned (safely secured) bicycle with flowers cascading from the front basket
• Window boxes with pansies, creeping thyme, phlox and solar powered LED lights

The Beautification Team will evaluate displays in late September on the following criteria: effective use of color including texture and foliage, sense of design, personality, plant health and maintenance, year round interest, interesting and creative architectural features.

We will also have a People’s Choice Winner, done by voting on social media and at anacortes.org.

The winners will receive a $50 Gift Card from either Ace Hardware or D Avenue Nursery. Learn more online at http://anacortes.org/bloomcontest

EDASC Roadshow

$Pricing$

What you’re selling is worth every penny! The question is, how many pennies? In this workshop on June 16th Tony Salas from EDASC will examine pricing strategies that maximize your value and income.

• How do my customers perceive my product or service, in terms of price and value?
• How do my prices compare with my competitors?
• Is my inventory moving as quickly as I thought it would? If not, do I clearly understand the reasons why?
• What is my cost-per-unit? Did I capture it all?

The group will explore these and other questions during the hour and half inactive presentation.

Thursday June 16 at 3:30 PM
Location: Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board Room
819 Commercial Avenue, Suite F (upstairs)
Please RSVP at www.skgtr.org/events
2016 Anacortes Waterfront Festival

The 27th Annual Anacortes Waterfront Festival is days away at the beautiful Cap Sante Marina. Make it a full weekend by attending the Waterfront Festival Kick-Off Dinner on June 3rd at 6pm, hosted by the Port of Anacortes. At the festival you can take a free boat ride with the Anacortes Yacht Club, build memories in the children’s boat making area with the Fidalgo Island Rotary, explore custom classic cars, and cheer on the Quick and Dirty Boat Demonstration.

The Milk Carton Derby will be back again this year, so be sure to come and cheer on the local kid’s creations. There will also be a giveaway for two roundtrip flights to Friday Harbor from San Juan Airlines, so be sure to stop by the information booth to enter to win. Kids can enjoy the new Waterfront Activity Passport that will take them to various activity stations from Cap Sante Marina to Seafarer’s Memorial. Visit the festival website at anacortes.org for more details about all of these events.

This year the festival will have longer hours so you can dance to the Chris Eger Band on Saturday night and Rabbit Wilde on Sunday. The third Annual Community Plaza Dance in honor of Anacortes’s maritime heritage will also take place at the Depot Arts Center from 7-9pm on Saturday evening. We want to thank our community sponsors that help to make this free, family event possible.

Thanks to Trident Seafoods for hosting our May 4th Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling. Thanks to Gere-a-Deli, Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery, and San Juan Vineyards for the wonderful spread of food and drink.

Thanks to our Title sponsor Shell Puget Sound Refinery for their continued support of this free community event. (Pictured to the left is Shell General Manager Shirley Yap and Chamber Board President Chris Long)
new members

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Climb In is a family owned bouldering gym in Anacortes. They are located in town close to restaurants, parks, beaches, and all that Fidalgo Island has to offer. Climb In is a great place for the beginning through advanced climber.

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2016 Ambassadors

Taylor Bannister—Boys & Girls Club
Jessica Cantrell—RE/MAX Gateway
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Key Bank
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Shauna Marrs—Peoples Bank
Dan Maul—Classic Style & Company
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Leslie Powell—Lighthouse Memory Care
Bill Robards—North Sound Pest Solutions
Cathy Rockwell—Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candy Company
Carla Schipper—Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary

member renewals

• Airporter Shuttle / Bellair Charters
• Anacortes Cleaning Lady
• Anacortes Family Medicine
• Anacortes Insurance Services / Allstate
• Anacortes Printing/Clamdigger
• Berentson Public Relations
• Catchmore Charters
• CompuMatter
• Craig, Colleen @ Windermere Real Estate
• Creative Cabinets
• Edward Jones - Troy Kunz
• Farmers Insurance - Curtis Payne Agency
• Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
• Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publish
• Island Express Charters, Inc.
• Jahn, Steve
• Lang Custom Concrete & Construction, Inc.
• Mystic Sea Charters
• Northwest Yachts
• Seaside Autobody & Accessories
• Sherman and Hanson Physical Therapy
• Skagit Symphony
• Skagit Valley College
• SonHouse
• Soroptimist International of Anacortes
• Total Home Services
• Town Cottages

thanks...

Thanks to Trident Seafoods for hosting the Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling on May 4th. Thanks also to Gere-a-Deli, Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery, and San Juan Vineyards for the wonderful food and drink. Finally, thanks to the following businesses that brought gifts for the giveaway.
• Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
• Home Sweet Home Antiques
• KeyBank
• Kiwanis Sunrisers
• Lighthouse RV Park & Mini Storage
• Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
• Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
• Youth Dynamics

Thanks to Quantum Construction for sponsoring our May luncheon, to Tony Salas from EDASC for his networking presentation, and to the Majestic Inn & Spa for the delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.
• E-Fresh Design
• Edward Jones – Jeffery Pleet
• Fidalgo Living Magazine
• Hampton Inn/Candlewood Suites
• Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
• Mystic Sea Charters
• Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
• Skagit Publishing

Thanks to Peoples Bank for hosting our May Business After Hours. Congratulations on the new location and ribbon cutting! Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.
• Ace Hardware of Anacortes
• Anacortes Candle Company
• Anacortes Construction Services
• Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
• Anne Martin McCool Studio
• CompuMatter Computer Store
• Edward Jones – Jeffery Pleet
• Fidalgo Island Rotary
• Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living
• Gary Walters
• Lighthouse Memory Care
• Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
• Majestic Inn & Spa
• Peoples Bank
• Bill Short
• Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
• Toy Stories
• Washington Federal
Congratulations to Re-Feather Your Nest and Calico Cupboard, who recently expanded and renovated the space between their shops. The area mixes products from Re-Feather Your Nest with new seating for Calico Cupboard and offers a space for guests to explore. Pictured here are members of the Re-Feather Your Nest and Calico Cupboard Team, Store Manager Sally Zawistowski, Mayor Laurie Gere, plus friends, family, and other members of the retail community.

Congratulations to Peoples Bank, who recently moved into their new location at 1218 Commercial Avenue. Pictured here are visiting members of their Corporate Branch, Mayor Laurie Gere, Anacortes Branch Manager Marge Milner, Staff Members and Chamber Board President Chris Long.

Since 1921, Peoples Bank has been closely held and a family controlled, independent community bank. Headquartered in Bellingham, Washington, today the Bank operates 24 locations and three loan production offices serving consumers and businesses throughout Washington.
chamber officers

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Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

PRESIDENT ELECT
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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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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!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

ANACORTES WATERFRONT

June 4th, 10am-7pm
June 5th, 10am-5pm

Free Boat Rides from the Anacortes Yacht Club
Waterfront Activity Passport for the Kids
Fidalgo Island Rotary Free Boat Building
Free Art Activities for Kids from the Arts Festival
Educational Activities in the Channel of Discovery
Live Music & Entertainment • Beer & Wine Garden
Quick & Dirty Boat Building • Milk Carton Derby
Remote Controlled Model Boat Displays
Corvette & Custom Classic Car Show
In-Water Demonstrations • Carnival Area
Handcrafted Goods

Waterfront Festival Dinner - June 3rd 6:00PM
$45 in advance $50 at the door

For more information
Visit anacortes.org

Photography by Steve Berentson