Join Peoples Bank on Thursday, May 19th for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of their new full-service branch in Anacortes. The new branch, managed by Marge Milnor, offers drive-up banking, safe-deposit boxes, small business loans, commercial loans, merchant services and mortgage lending.

Peoples Bank is a locally owned and operated, independent community bank with 25 branches located throughout Washington, including five Skagit County locations. The staff enjoys being a part of the community and contributing to organizations and events such as the Anacortes Arts Festival, Skagit County Community Action Agency and the Anacortes Family Center.

Stop by the new branch, located at 1218 Commercial Avenue (on the west side of Commercial), for the Business After Hours on Thursday, May 19th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Enjoy an evening of drinks, appetizers and celebration, and don’t forget to bring a gift for the raffle! For more information contact the branch at (360) 588-0153. Please RSVP online.
As I sit down to write this month’s piece, I’m watching the sun rise from the island of St Martin. Although I’m able to take a week off to try and find a small piece of tranquility, I can’t help but to take note of the business side of making paradise. It takes more than sand, and sun, and surf. That can be found in many places. It’s the people that make a destination truly desirable. This place has it. From the friendly smiles to the pleasant greetings and common courtesy, it’s the people that make you feel good and want to come back.

How do they do it? How do they consistently put a smile on their face and place the guests feelings above all else? I think it comes from a true caring for everyone they meet. No gimmicks, no sales, no hidden agenda. A ‘from the heart’ desire to ensure your needs and comforts are met so you can have the experience of a lifetime. And you know what? It’s contagious!

The owner of our villa, who lives stateside, has two full time staff, Sicily and Sylvester. They are amazing! They are taken care of very well by the owner, because he knows they are the front representation for his property and he counts on them for its care. They are very hard workers, they do a fantastic job, but more importantly, they provide a personal level of service through their upbeat, happy and genuine ‘care for the guest’ mentality that can only come from the heart. Not once did I think about how much I paid, but when can I get back and experience this again.

I think if we spent less time worrying about the brick and mortar framework of our businesses and spent more time building personal relationships, our businesses success will fall into place on its own.

—Chris Long
Jolly Mon Charters

Anacortes in Bloom

We are promoting an Anacortes in Bloom contest this year, encouraging businesses throughout Anacortes to enhance our beautification efforts with the use of flowers.

Whether you have flowers in the ground or displays in containers in front of your business, we want to celebrate your commitment to making Anacortes beautiful and inviting.

In the hopes of enjoying a vibrant spring and summer, a team will evaluate displays the week after Oyster Run on the following criteria:

• Effective use of color including texture/foliage
• Sense of design, personality
• Plant health and maintenance
• Year-round interest
• Interesting and creative architectural features

Contact the chamber for more information, 360-293-7911.

Meet Your Board

Mary LaFleur

Coming to Anacortes every year on her family boat as a kid, Mary LaFleur looked forward to stopping at one of her favorite little towns. The thought of feasting on fresh Dungeness Crab caught in your front yard was amazing to little Mary. She moved her first boat here in 1987 and has been a marina tenant ever since. Mary was finally able to move her home and business to Anacortes in 2013.

LaFleur started her career in 1986 with Farmers Insurance Group where she was owner of LaFleur Insurance Agency. Realizing that being a captive agent was not what she wanted for herself, or her clients, Mary started ALT Insurance Group with a partner in 2009. Since then she has worked with over 30 carriers. ALT Insurance Group is an all-lines agency, insuring yachts, boats, autos, homes, RVs, and businesses. With her passion for boating, Mary has become a specialist in marine insurance. One of her favorite quotes, is that she will save you enough on your auto and home insurance to fill your boat with fuel.

Other passions include volunteering for various groups in her communities such as Hospice, Children’s Home Society of Tacoma, Anacortes Marine Trades Association, and the Port of Anacortes Marina Advisory Committee. Mary is passionate about bringing the workers in the marine trades together to promote Anacortes as a unique resource in the Northwest for all things marine related.
Get ready for the big reveal as the 27th Annual Waterfront Festival poster is unveiled on Wednesday, May 4th at Trident Seafoods, 1400 4th Street, 5:30–7:00PM. Please register online.

Trident generously opens their doors to the chamber every year, and clears their dry goods storage area to make room for this festive event! Trident provides Gere-a-Deli with some of their most delectable products from the sea and Gere-a-Deli creates a spread that is simply amazing. Hosted bar presented by Rockfish Grill/AnacortesBrewery/H2O serving their hand-crafted beers and San Juan Vineyards pouring their locally made wine.

This is the official event to honor all of the sponsors who underwrite the two-day Anacortes Waterfront Festival and gives everyone a special preview of this year’s poster.

Trident is proud to be an integral partner in the Anacortes community and is committed to the growth of Anacortes. The company is dedicated to providing quality jobs with 250 full-time benefited employees and 75 contracted seasonal employees. “From the Source to the Plate” is not simply the company motto, but a statement embedded with pride, dedication, hard work and drive to continue the company’s success. Trident’s value-added processing facility in Anacortes opened in 1989 and produces an ever-increasing selection of ready-to-prepare seafood items for U.S. food service and retail distribution.

Since 1981, Gere-a-Deli has remained a family-owned and operated business. Owner Laurie Gere along with her son Phil are proud of their friendly staff, original nostalgic décor and traditional family recipes made from scratch daily - it’s a preferred destination for locals and our island guests for lunch. Gere-a-Deli is also recognized for its exceptional catering consistently delivering simple, yet elegant food made from the highest quality ingredients. The Anacortes Brewery, founded in 1994, is the 10th oldest brewery in the state and brews over 30 different styles every year. Owners, Allen Rhoades and Rick Star opened the Rockfish Grill, an Anacortes favorite, in 2000 as a family restaurant. In 2012, H2O opened featuring an innovative menu, unique craft cocktails and a dance floor. Both the Rockfish and H2O have developed a reputation for great live music featuring top regional and national talent every week.

San Juan Vineyards was founded in 1996. Yvonne Swanberg has been operating San Juan Vineyards since 2002, and now is the sole owner. They are the only commercial operating vineyard and winery on San Juan Island. They are very proud of their two varietals: Madeleine Angevine and Siegerrebe, the estate varietals of San Juan Vineyards. Their wines have won numerous awards including double gold medals in the Washington Wine Competition.
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experience anacortes

Since the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce acts as the DMO (Destination Marketing Organization), the Brand Team felt it was important to differentiate between the two. This is the new logo that was created for Anacortes, as a destination. The colors and style were chosen for specific reasons, which we have featured here:

- **Playful Script (Welcoming, Relaxed)**
- **Deep Ocean Blue Color (Beautiful Island)**
- **Waves (Seacoast)**
- **Island Sunshine Color (Wonderful Weather)**

ambassador profile

Shaunna Marrs

Shaunna moved to Anacortes in 2012 to live with her now husband Jeff Marrs. She instantly fell in love with the community and all that it had to offer. After nine years in banking with Whidbey Island Bank, Shaunna began working at Peoples Bank in early 2014. She is currently the Relationship Manager.

Shaunna is active with the Fidalgo Rotary as well as an active member and board director of the Swinomish Yacht Club. In her spare time, Shaunna enjoys spending time with her family and friends out boating in the San Juan Islands. When not on the water, she enjoys spending time with her husband and step children Jacob and Brenna.

As an avid supporter of this wonderful community and all that it has to offer, Shaunna is proud to serve as an ambassador for the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce.

ribbon cutting

Vagabond Food Truck

Congratulations to owners Mike and Lori Hayes on the opening and new location of Vagabond Food Truck at Cap Sante Marina, 11th and Q Avenue. They hosted a fun ribbon cutting on April 20th. Pictured here from left to right are, chamber and community members, Past President Karin Baldwin, owners Lori and Mike Hayes, chamber staff, and family and friends.

Did you know that members can use the chamber boardroom free of charge? The space seats up to 20 people and has electronic connections for your presentation needs. Call 293-7911 to see if the room is available for your next meeting or seminar!
2016 Anacortes Spring Wine Festival

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the 2016 Spring Wine Festival a success. We had 30 wineries from across Washington State here in our seaside town to pour tastings of our state's superb wine offerings to the close to 1,000 guests in attendance.

The winemaker’s dinner on Friday evening at Frida’s Gourmet Mexican with Spoiled Dog Winery kicked off a weekend of activities in Anacortes. Live music across downtown on Saturday night gave festival guests great entertainment to enjoy after the event at the Brown Lantern, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican, H2O, and the Rockfish. We want to thank everyone who helped plan these extra events and thank the caterers that served at the festival, 5th Street Bistro, Dad’s Diner, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican, Gere-a-Deli, The Rockfish Grill & H2O, Swinomish Casino & Lodge, Taylor Shellfish, and Vivi’s Kitchen.

We also want to thank our sponsors whose support provides the means to put together this festival that benefits our community: Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company, Academy Mortgage Corporation, Anacortes American, Colleen Craig with Windemere Real Estate, RE/MAX Gateway, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Swinomish Casino & Lodge, TCC Verizon–Cellular Connections, Trident Seafoods, Birch Equipment, Barrett Financial, Heritage Bank, Island Rentals and Supply, Peoples Bank, The Apothecary Spa, Fidalgo Bay Resort, Scott Milo Gallery, Steve & Linda Wilhoit, and Tri-County Recycling.

We were able to invest in a larger layout, add a new VIP area, and promote the festival to potential guests in surrounding counties.

Fifty percent of the guests to the festival this year came from outside of Skagit County, 28% of guests to the festival stayed in paid accommodations on Saturday night after the event, and 90% of guests that responded to our survey had a positive experience at the festival. We have heard from chamber members that these visitors were out shopping and dining in our local businesses throughout the weekend. This promotion of commerce is one of major reasons we put on the festival, so it is great to know it is working!

Finally to the volunteers who helped leading up to and through the event, thank you for all of your hard work. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year, as we continue this great community event!
new members

ANACORTES DOCKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB
807 Commercial Ave (Upstairs at Village Pizza)
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-9395
www.anacortesdockers.toastmastersclubs.org
Mark Lundsten
mlundsten@gmail.com
At their weekly meetings, they provide a safe and structured venue to practice speaking, listening and running an efficient meeting. Meetings are held every Tuesday at noon.

CASCADE RESOURCES AND CONSULTING
1004 Commercial Ave, Unit #362
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 630-3884
www.cascade-resources.com
Stuart Ehrenreich
stuart.ehrenreich@cascade-resources.com
Providing consulting services to assist primary industries in carbon sourcing analysis and strategies.

INTERPRETING TECHNOLOGY
203 E Fairhaven Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 419-5555
www.interpretintech.com
Adrian Santangelo
sales@interpretintech.com
Providing quality technology services that sustain businesses of all sizes. Managed services, data security, data recovery, networking and new computer sales & service.

NORTH SOUND PEST SOLUTIONS
12375 Reservation Rd Suite A
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 320-3616 or (360) 488-2108
bill@simplyyards.com
Anacortes owned and operated pest solutions company. Specializing in crawling and flying insects and rodent control for commercial or residential property.

WADDELL & REED INC
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 770-5754
Charles Yousling
cyousling@gmail.com

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 Jukovich—Washington Federal
Shauna Marrs—People’s 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 Candle Company
Carla Schipper—Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary

thanks...

Thank you to the Kiwanis Sunrisers for sponsoring our April Luncheon, to Fidalgo Bay Resort for hosting us, and to John Sternlicht from EDASC on an informative talk. Thanks also to the following businesses and individuals for bringing a giveaway prize.

• Academy Mortgage Corporation
• Anacortes Dockers Toastmasters Club
• Bella Ve Permanent Make Up & Healing Arts
• Express Employment Professionals
• Fidalgo Bay Resort
• Fidalgo Living - Best Version Media
• Jennings Chiropractic, Inc. P.S.
• Key Bank
• Kiwanis Sunrisers
• Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
• Salon Rouge Spa
• Starbucks Coffee Company
• Simply Yards Landscape and Design

member renewals

• Anacortes Lions Club
• Anacortes Property Management
• Anacortes Schools Foundation
• Anacortes Sister Cities Association
• Anacortes U-Save Auto Rental
• An-O-Chords Chapter of the Barbershop Har
• Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism
• Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service
• Discovery Inn
• Fidalgo DanceWorks
• Highliner Charters
• Island Adventures, Inc.
• Kiwanis Shop, The
• Mannpower
• Micro AeroDynamics, Inc.
• Petersen, Karen @ John L. Scott Real Esta
• San Juan Airlines
• Shotwell, Art
• Sierra Microprioducts, Inc.
• Skagit Publishing/The Argus/Courier Times
• Sound Events
• Sunrise Inn Villas and Suites
• Surety Pest Control
• United Way of Skagit County

Thank you to RE/MAX Gateway and Umpqua Bank for hosting our April Business After Hours, complete with delicious spread from Gere-a-Deli and tastings from Deception Distilling. Thanks also to the following businesses and individuals for bringing a giveaway prize.

• Anacortes Dockers Toastmasters Club
• Anacortes Oil & Vinegar
• Bella Ve Permanent Makeup & Healing Arts
• Classic Style & Company, IIC
• Deception Distilling
• Land Title and Escrow
• Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
• Mount Vernon Carpet One
• Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
• Peoples Bank
• Portalis, IIC
• RE/MAX Gateway
• Umpqua Bank
• Unique Romance Travel & Destination
• Weddings
• Washington Federal
• Youth Dynamics Anacortes
Anacortes Welcomes the ISSA National Regatta to Town

Anacortes will be hosting the Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA) national regatta on May 27–29, known as the Baker’s Cup. Previously the regatta has been held in the cities of Chicago and Annapolis. This will be the first time that the Anacortes Yacht Club will host a national high school regatta here on Fidalgo Island.

To qualify for participation in the national regatta, each of the 12 divisions of the ISSA hold district regattas. Anacortes is hosting the Northwest District Regatta on May 20–22 and we can expect about 130 participants for the district regatta. The 12 teams that win their district will arrive in Anacortes on Friday, May 27.

The Bakers Cup competition will be held on Saturday and Sunday entailing two long days of competitive sailing in Flying Junior dinghies. With the umpires, coaches, officials and team members, we can expect 155 individuals (not including family members). Please be sure to welcome these guests to our town in May.

Economic Development Association Of Skagit County Expands

The Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) is proud to announce that three new highly skilled, experienced and credentialed professionals have joined their team, dedicated to strengthening the economy of Skagit County to the benefit of all residents.

Jennifer Brookes is the Director of Finance and Administration. Jennifer is a CPA who earned her BBA in Accounting from Gonzaga University has returned to this area after many years working in banking and wealth management in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She has held a number of positions in accounting, including business manager, fiscal technician, senior accountant, and ultimately Finance Director. Most of her career was with Citizens Financial Group (Citizens Bank) in corporate accounting, consumer banking, and wealth management. She occupied successively more responsible positions and helped upgrade and improve many corporate systems and procedures. Jennifer brings strong skills in financial modeling, budgeting, forecasting and analysis. She is happy to be back in Washington close to family.

Sean Connell is the Director of Business Recruitment, and brings more than fifteen years of experience in economic development, international trade, and public policy to the position. He served most recently as the Director of Trade and Economic Development for Snohomish County, working closely with county agencies, local municipalities and others in economic development, including outreach to international investment and trade prospects. Sean, who holds a BA with high honors in East Asian Studies from Wesleyan University (CT) and an MA in International Affairs from The George Washington University (DC), also studied at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. Sean, who has deep family roots in the north Puget Sound region, particularly enjoys hiking and biking in Skagit County.

Andrew Miller is the Director of Business Retention and Expansion and a proud Skagit native. After active duty in the Air Force, Andrew served as an officer in the Washington Air National Guard, focusing on counter-drug and counter-terrorism activities. His skills center on risk management, critical thinking and strategic management, and he has taught graduate level courses in these fields. Along the way, Andrew earned Master’s degrees in Security Strategy (Naval Postgraduate School) and Organizational Leadership (Gonzaga University) before earning his MBA (Pacific Lutheran University) and Juris Doctor (Seattle University School of Law), he has worked in the areas of international business and business continuity and resiliency.

As you can see, EDASC has assembled a high-powered team of consummate professionals, all focused on expanding economic opportunity for our county, cities and towns, and all our residents. Please welcome these new team members, whom you will meet at upcoming meetings and events in the community.
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

Board of Directors

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

Photography by Steve Berentson

chamber officers

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling
at Trident - May 4th, 5:30-7pm

Waterfront Festival Dinner at the
Port of Anacortes - June 3rd, 6pm

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

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

For more information
Visit anacortes.org