Anacortes Arts Festival

August 5 – 7 in Downtown Anacortes
Friday 10:00am – 7:00pm
Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm
www.AnacortesArtsFestival.com

It’s almost time for our community’s largest celebration: the Anacortes Arts Festival. On August 5, 6, and 7 Anacortes will play host to approximately 90,000 festival goers. They come back year after year for the treasures, fine art, music, good times and friendly hospitality.

The festival kicks off with the opening of the Fine Art Exhibition at the Port Transit Shed on Saturday, July 30th at 6pm. It’s magical to see the space transformed into a fine art gallery. The show includes artists from around the country, with an emphasis on regional artists.

Steamroller Block Printing is back in the Working Studios area. Other highlights include several public projects including a community mandala and a new PIANO-cortes project. Pianos painted during the festival will be placed in downtown Anacortes, where they will be available for public use during the month of August.

Downtown streets will be lined with booth artisans who have competed for a spot to be here. These artists are the backbone of the festival – and represent art and craft in every medium. The festival committee is always looking for what’s unique and beautiful. Approximately 20% of the booth artisans are new this year.

Because music is important, the festival has three stages going from morning into the evening. For the second year, the Manieri Endowment is partnering to provide Jazz on the 10th Street stage. New this year is an Emerging Artist venue at the Heart of Anacortes. Local high school and young adult musicians and artists will have their own space to showcase their talent.

The festival offers a smorgasbord of local, regional and ethnic foods – oysters, salmon, barbecue, sausage . . . and food trucks disbursed throughout the festival. Three beer and wine gardens offer seating next to the stages; each with its own flair and special offerings.

The Art Dash is moving to festival weekend! This popular run on Saturday, August 6, routes along the waterfront, ending up at the Port of Anacortes dock. Proceeds from the run funds public art projects like the new “Running” sculpture on R Avenue.

Last, but not least, are the littlest festival-goers (and they don’t mean dogs). The festival believes that kids should be able to get messy and have fun - and provides lots of activities for them.

While the festival plans all year for this big weekend party to celebrate art, it is a 501(c)3 with a more serious mission to fund art in our community. Every extra dollar is reinvested in art – this year to the tune of over $60,000. The majority of their giving supports art education through the Anacortes School District, and other local organizations. The Anacortes Arts Festival is proud to be able to fill this role in the Anacortes community.

For more information, visit the festival website at AnacortesArtsFestival.com
I love this community, I really do! Often do I see a genuine act of kindness only to be outdone by another shortly after. I’ve seen “pay it forward” events at the drive through for food and coffee. We have an on-line group that will organize a flood of business to a store that may be in a bit of a slump. We have many individuals and businesses that are very generous with their charitable giving to needy groups. We have a plethora of service organizations that thrive with a motivated active membership that reach deep into the community. I’ve watched on-line chats that bring up concerns for individuals they see on the streets and organize help if needed for those individuals.

The latest act that really touched my heart was when a loved business posted they would have to close their doors because of overwhelming issues they were facing. This community stepped up and did whatever was needed to keep those doors open. Wow!

It’s people like this who truly understand the importance of exhibiting compassion and kindness through daily work and generous contributions that make our community a blessed place to live. And compassion begets compassion.

And there is a direct link between compassion and success. According to Wharton professor Adam Grant, givers are more liked and appreciated and therefore become more influential. In addition to being pleasant and easy to work with, compassion makes you trustworthy. So when you see someone engaging in a compassionate action, let it inspire and elevate you. It might just be good for business too.

—Chris Long
Jolly Mon Charters

Ace Hardware

Ace Hardware of Anacortes was established here in 1979 by Gordon and Edith Bennett who sold their interest to Pat Strand in 1995. In 1998 Pat and the current owners, Randy and Alyssa Burgess, entered into an agreement that was finalized this past January making the Burgess’ the sole owners.

The Anacortes Ace store was originally located on the southeast corner of the The Market. At that time, Ace had three to five employees and has grown to 25. Over the years, Ace has accomplished many milestones, but two of the largest were their move to their current location in 1998 where they expanded from a 7000 sq ft store to 10,000 sq ft along Q Avenue. In 2010 Ace expanded to a second location in downtown Friday Harbor. Ace is celebrating its 36th year in business thanks to loyal and supportive customers in both Anacortes and the surrounding areas including Friday Harbor and the San Juan Islands. Burgess says “We are very proud to say, we are locally owned and operated.” Current owner Randy Burgess was born in Anacortes at Island Hospital and has been active in many community related activities including past president of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce.

Ace Hardware in Anacortes and Friday Harbor specialize in customer service with trained and knowledgeable staff. They pride themselves in being part of a co-op that was recently awarded a 10th consecutive JD Powers award. Ace Hardware offers a variety of hardware and gardening products including paint, tools, electrical, plumbing, housewares, as well as lawn and garden products, plants, small engine equipment and repair, power tool repair and more.

Ace recently launched their business-to-business (B2B) venture that allows small businesses to purchase items they may have had to go elsewhere to find such as restaurant supplies, janitorial and supply closet items, fasteners and more for all small business, commercial and industrial customers. Local businesses, government agencies or nonprofits can save money and keep it local.

One fun fact is the corporate name: Saltchuck Mercantile, in honor of the previous owner Pat Strand’s Dad who would tell her as a child “I’m heading out on the Saltchuck to go fishing.” And since the stores are located in and around the “Saltchuck” it’s seemed appropriate to have that as the corporate name. “We are proud to honor Carson Strand, Pat’s father,” states Burgess. It’s all about family! Ace is open seven days a week and they are always available with a helpful smile asking “what can we help you with today?”
VIC Volunteers

Over 30 volunteers gathered together at Seafarer’s Memorial Park on Tuesday, June 28th for a potluck picnic. The sun was shining, the waters were calm, and everyone had a chance to sit down together and catch up.

This team of volunteers keep our Visitor Information Center running smoothly – for the first six months of the year, they have answered over 500 phone calls, assisted over 4,800 guests who have walked in for information, and have volunteered over 1,600 hours of their time. They are dedicated to providing our guests with one-of-a-kind service, and help make Anacortes a special island destination.

Thanks to the Port of Anacortes for providing this space to celebrate these volunteers.

meet your board

Mark Wenzel

Dr. Mark Wenzel is excited to enter his fourth year as superintendent in Anacortes, with the school board extending a new three-year contract to him this summer.

“Our time here has gone by so fast,” said Wenzel. “My wife, Julie, and I feel very fortunate to have landed in Anacortes. It’s such a warm, connected community.”

Wenzel has focused on the high school construction project, technology integration and instructional excellence as his top priorities as superintendent. He also celebrates the strong caring culture across schools and deepening connections with the community.

His tenure has been marked by the passage of a new tech levy and high school bond; new curricula in math and reading; expanded professional development and teacher collaboration; and the planned transition to a 6-8 middle school.

“It’s been a full three years, but I’ve loved every minute of it,” he said.

Wenzel notes how Anacortes offers more educational programs than similarly sized districts.

“We have a dynamic hands-on Career & Technical Education program, as well as advanced academic courses in 14 subjects. Add the arts, athletics and community involvement, and we have a lot to be proud of,” he said.

“I’m excited about how our first-rate staff are preparing students for future careers by emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication,” he said.

Wenzel says he’s enjoyed being on the chamber board and connecting with the business community.

“I appreciate the commitment of the organization,” he said. “The chamber really believes in its mission of making Anacortes the most economically vibrant waterfront community in Washington state. I enjoy being part of strategic conversations to support the economic vitality of Anacortes. There’s sharp thinking and a generosity of spirit on the board – it’s a great combination.”

Mark and Julie have three kids: Ruby, 7, Eli, 4 and Finn 2.

Fun fact: When Mark worked in Korea after graduate school, he won a nationally televised Korean pop singing contest.

“I definitely had my 15 minutes of fame,” he said. “The next day, I was mobbed by a bunch of schoolkids who screamed that they saw me on TV and wanted my autograph. And an 80-year-old woman gave me a bear hug in a grocery store.”
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The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a project designing 4x4 collectible cards to be given as gifts to visiting guests and are distributed by our retailers. The front of the cards feature art or a photo by local Anacortes artists. The back features fun facts and interesting tidbits about Fidalgo Island. Three cards are currently in circulation and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. We are working to create a fourth card before the end of August!

“I was in Anacortes on the Fourth of July (first time ever) and loved

the two collectible cards I received in the two shops where I purchased something… As a 25 year member of our local chamber of commerce you have a WINNER of an idea! I am going to frame the cards because they are just too pretty to put in a drawer.”
-Susie Caskey
Laguna Hills, California
2016 Anacortes Bier on the Pier Festival

Bier on the Pier returns to Anacortes October 7th & 8th. Now in its 7th year, this popular festival brings beer lovers from across Washington, Oregon and British Columbia to our coastal community for a weekend of great beer, music, and food. 2,800 guests will sample the best from 30 Northwest breweries and 10 cideries. “This year, festival attendees will get to discover new breweries that they might not have heard of,” says festival committee chair, Kevin Pierce, the head brewer at Anacortes Brewery. “A lot of these brewers have a long history of loving to brew, and it shows in the beers that they craft.”

Become a Sponsor!

With attendance split evenly between local attendees and visitors from across the state, Bier on the Pier is a great opportunity to promote your business to an enthusiastic crowd. Sponsorships for this event can include Facebook mentions, a banner at the festival, a sponsorship listing in the program, tickets to the festival, and/or your logo on the informational poster. We are also working to create more interactive sponsorships to promote festival supporters. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Laura Hartner at the chamber, 360-293-7911 or lhartner@anacortes.org. She would love to work with your business to find the best way for you to be a part of this popular event!

Volunteer!

This two-day festival takes many hands to make light work. Volunteering is great way to get involved with Bier on the Pier and comes with a great perk – a free ticket to the festival! From ticket sales to brewery assistants, this festival has lots of ways that you can help. Volunteer on a Friday and enjoy the festival on Saturday, or vice versa. Come meet great people in the Anacortes community and have fun while greeting guests to our town and celebrating the best of Washington beer. You can sign up to volunteer online, go to www.anacortes.org/bier-on-the-pier/volunteer/ or call 360-293-7911.

The chamber would like to give a big thanks to the community sponsors that make this festival possible!

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- Swinomish Casino & Lodge
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- The Walk-In Clinic at Island Hospital

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- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Skagit Valley College
- Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company

**Stein**
- U.S. Bank

**Yard**
- The Brown Lantern
- Pacific Party Canopies
Congratulations to Lopez Island Creamery on their new facilities at 12375 Reservation Road. Pictured here is owner Alex Thieman and family, Mayor Laurie Gere, Anacortes chamber and rotary members, and friends.

Congratulations to The Good Stuff on their new store location at 604 Commercial Avenue. Pictured here from left to right are Leslie Powell, Mary LaFleur, Brian Johnson, Don Measamer, Dan Maul, owner Kat Peterson, Mayor Laurie Gere, owner Kent Peterson, Cynthia Richardson, Jeremy Carter, and Brenden Jones.

Congratulations to Lil' Tugs Childrens Boutique on their grand opening at 713 Commercial Avenue. Pictured here are Matt Miller, Heather Miller, Stephanie Hamilton, Lori Maul, Lisa Kuhnlein, Barbara Hoenselaar, Laurie Gere, Michele DeCarlo, Valerie McGough, and Barry Harter.
Congratulations to Kelli Lang on the opening of her new office at 819 Commercial Avenue. Pictured here from left to right are Jeannine Reinig, Nicole Haun, owner Kelli Lang, Mayor Laurie Gere, Allison Corral, Amanda Murdock, and chamber president Chris Long.

Thanks to the Anacortes Arts Festival and H2O for hosting the July Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Ace Hardware
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Candle Company
- Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Bar
- Anne Martin McCool
- Barrett Financial
- Jennings Chiropractic
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- Marketing with Mary
- Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
- Toy Stories

Did you know that the chamber boasts the busiest website on Fidalgo Island? Your listing in our preferred business directory links directly to your website at no additional cost, and benefits your Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

Questions about how you can enhance your listing with pictures and videos? Give us a call and we’ll walk you through the process, 293-7911.

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Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Company
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary
Anacortes BUSKER FEST
Let's all meet on the street
Sunday, August 28
11:00am - 3:00pm

Anacortes Open Streets is back for a third year. Commercial Ave from 1st-10th St will be closed to cars and open to bicyclists, walkers, strollers, skaters, and non-motorized transport of all sorts. Activities include:

- Street performers competing in Buskerfest
- Bike activities
- Live music
- Pianocortes with decorated pianos to play throughout downtown
- Information and demonstration booths
- Family Water War...a battle of the super soakers

Plus many downtown retailers will be offering specials, including art demonstrations and 10% off art supplies at The Good Stuff and 25% off at Anacortes Candle Company’s downtown location.