THE ANACORTES COMMUNICATOR
The Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce
Volume 26 / Issue 03

calendar

Wednesday, March 1 3:30pm
Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Thursday, March 2 11:45am
Ambassador Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, March 7 8:30am
Retail Trades Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, March 7 10:00am
Marine Trades Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Wednesday, March 8 2:30pm
Economic & Development Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Thursday, March 9 11:30am
Chamber Luncheon
Majestic Inn and Spa

Tuesday, March 14 4:00pm
Membership Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Thursday, March 16 5:30pm
Business After Hours
ACME Creative

Friday, March 17 10:30am
Finance/Executive Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, March 21 3:30pm
Board Meeting
Anacortes School District

Thursday, March 23 3:30pm
EDASC Road Show
Chamber Office

Tuesday, March 28 9:00am
Visitors Information Center
Chamber Office

chamber luncheon

Richard A. White, Manager, State & Local Government Operations with The Boeing Company, will provide our group a front seat look at what things are happening now and planned right over the horizon here in Washington State.

Boeing is now looking forward to its second 100 years and they want to celebrate and thank you, our community leaders and groups for the key role in creating the business environment for Boeing and many other innovation based companies to become established and thrive here in Washington. They also want you to know how important your continuing support is as competition intensifies from aerospace and technology companies from all over the globe. To help you stay informed they would like to offer our members to enroll in our special “Boeing in Washington” online newsletter.

United Way of Skagit County is this month’s luncheon sponsor. They, #1 bring the Skagit community together, #2 work locally to accomplish specific goals, and #3 focus on the issues most important to Skagitians.

By working closely with over 80 local businesses, more than 30 local non-profits, all school districts and numerous coalitions, United Way is taking the most strategic and inclusive approach to creating lasting positive change across Skagit County.

Sometimes it can be hard to find common ground. However, it’s not hard to see that most Skagit folks agree on many things: the education of our children, the health of seniors, and economic vitality and stability throughout Skagit County. By working together locally, they can enact measurable progress in these areas.

United Way has had a very long and positive relationship with Boeing, and are honored to sponsor this luncheon.

The lunch will take place at the Majestic Inn and Spa, in the ballroom, located at 914 Commercial Ave, 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!

business after hours

Please join us on March 16th from 5:30-7:00pm for our business after hours at ACME Creative located at 705 Commercial Ave for this month’s Business After Hours.

ACME Creative was developed over a year ago by uniting Lisa & Peter Kuhnlein’s photography business, KP Studios, and Adam Farnsworth and Alan Ayers design business, Industrious Industries. The now full-service boutique creative studio specializes in website design, logo and brand development, and photography. The ACME Team strives to create marketing resources that are innovative and functional with modern brand styling.

Their studio also includes a fun place for the public to visit. With a small gourmet coffee bar and art gallery, they host creative events monthly. These include artist lectures, Anacortes Readers Theater, music, art openings and more. It is an engaging and inspiring place to be.

ACME Creative can do pretty much do anything creative. Videography, motion graphics, social media ad creation, copy writing assistance? Yes… that too.

Please join us Thursday, March 16th from 5:30-7:00pm, gifts for the giveaway are welcome! RSVP to the chamber online or by calling the office at 293-7911.

cornerstone members

TESORO
Puget Sound Refinery

BOEING

United Way of Skagit County

ACME CREATIVE
WEBSITES. PHOTOGRAPHY. DESIGN.

United Way of Skagit County

MARCH 2017
819 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
360.293.7911
info@anacortes.org
www.anacortes.org

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The Anacortes Marine Trades participated in the Seattle Boat Show from January 27th to February 4th. This is the second year that the trade group has participated, and many thanks go out to the volunteers who were at the booth, greeting visitors and handing out information about Fidalgo Island!

Feedback was positive about Anacortes, as many people from the island were at the show, and many others had been through the area before. About 2,000 directories were handed out, and 475 names were gathered and added to an email list.

Jeff Paxson with Marine Detail Specialist was part of Boat Show University’s free seminars at the Seattle Boat Show, with a seminar with a focus on professional tips and tricks for maintaining your vessel. Mark Bunzel with Waggoner Guide spoke about cruising to Alaska, and charter cruising. Andy Schwenk from Northwest Rigging also gave multiple talks about sailboat maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

Congratulations to the team at Chandler’s Square Retirement Community for reducing your carbon footprint with the installation of solar panels! This grid-tied solar-electric system will offset a major portion of Chandler’s Square’s energy usage, and will be producing clean solar energy for more than 30 years.

Join us at Schmooze Fair! This business-to-business trade show is the place to be if you are looking to cultivate existing business relationships, engage with prospective new clients, and learn about the diverse industries, businesses and non-profit organizations that contribute to Skagit County’s economy.

General Admission is just $5 Purchase tickets online at www.skagit.org or pay at the door.

The Anacortes Marine Trades participated in the Seattle Boat Show from January 27th to February 4th. This is the second year that the trade group has participated, and many thanks go out to the volunteers who were at the booth, greeting visitors and handing out information about Fidalgo Island!
Tides of Anacortes is the vision of owner Jennifer Mann who set out to create a shop for women to find clothing, shoes and accessories that complement our active and casual lifestyles.

Established in August of 2015, the goal of Tides was to create a shop that the locals love and can count on for their needs as well as be of interest to our visitors. In addition, Jennifer wants the experience of shopping at Tides to feel like hanging out with a friend at home. The shop is located in the historic Wilson Building and has a relaxed and casual atmosphere.

Jennifer and her husband, Torben moved to Anacortes in 2005. Avid boaters, they fell in love with the area about 10 years earlier and knew this was where they wanted to be. Both were able to move here with their corporate jobs and worked from home when not traveling. Jennifer ended her 35 year corporate/global career when she decided to start Tides. Torben continues in his job, but is very involved behind the scenes at Tides. Both are proud to be part of the Anacortes community and truly appreciate the continued support of the shop.

Tides is the culmination of Jennifer’s years of business experience, her affection for beautiful things, her love of island life and the encouragement of amazing friends and family to pursue a dream! Stop in and say hello.

Diana Jordan-New has worked in the banking industry for 39 years. She is AVP/Branch Manager for Bank of the Pacific at the Anacortes branch. She has been a member of Fidalgo Island Rotary for 12 years, a past board member of Island Hospital Foundation and a current board member of the chamber. Diana was also a past member of Vela Luka Croatian Dancers and danced with them for 8 years (a long time ago she says)! She is very proud of her Croatian heritage.

Diana can recall when she was in high school, downtown Commercial Avenue storefront windows covered with paper and lease signs on many properties. The town was in a period of transition. Pulp and logging mills were shutting down, fish canneries were closing and the only viable industries were the two Anacortes refineries. She has observed a lot of positive changes in the community over the years and is pleased to see the growth and development of living wage jobs in the community. Diana wants to see Anacortes keep its small town vibe but understands the need to attract living wage jobs and industry and promote tourism.

Diana was born in Anacortes and has lived here most of her life. She has also lived in Hawaii, California and Vancouver, B.C. She has a large extensive family here and in the surrounding communities. You better be careful who you’re talking about because chances are she’s related to them! Her daughter, Alexandra, lives with her husband in Mount Vernon and they are expecting their first child in April. Diana is extremely excited to be a first time grandparent!

Diana is honored to serve as a chamber board member and welcomes the opportunities to learn about ways she can help promote growth and business in this town she loves so much. Diana welcomes anyone to stop by Bank of the Pacific and say hello!
special olympics athletes and the community.

skills and friendship with their families, other joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, fitness, demonstrate courage, experience continuing opportunities to develop physical adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them a variety of Olympic type sports for children and at Seafarer’s Park.

This fun day will take place Saturday, March 11 Run to benefit Special Olympics Washington.

annual Dash and Splash: Polar Plunge and 5K “splash” for the local athletes through our $10,000 for local athletes last year.

Thanks to the support of our community, law enforcement In Skagit County raised nearly state in support of Special Olympics Washington.

The Anacortes Police Department will again be joining law enforcement agencies across the state in support of Special Olympics Washington. Thanks to the support of our community, law enforcement In Skagit County raised nearly $10,000 for local athletes last year.

This year, we are hoping to make a big "splash" for the local athletes through our annual Dash and Splash: Polar Plunge and 5K Run to benefit Special Olympics Washington. This fun day will take place Saturday, March 11 at Seafarer’s Park.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Through sports, our athletes celebrate their abilities, not their disabilities. Their world opens with acceptance and understanding. They become confident and empowered by their accomplishments. They make new friends, joining the most inclusive community on the planet – a global community that’s growing every day.

Here’s how you can support our efforts: Become a Sponsor: Make a financial commitment and be recognized through a variety of benefits at the Dash & Splash event. Participate: Rally your employees and join us for a day of fun and fundraising. Create a team, raise money and earn prizes! Register online at www.PolarPlungeWA.org

Promote: Provide special discounts or donate a portion of sales at your business during the weekend. You promote us and we’ll promote you through our social media and program channels.

community highlight

John Campbell’s smile was one familiar to many Anacortes residents. He was from a local family, graduated from Anacortes High School and was an appreciated and beloved employee of the Anacortes Safeway for over eight years. He was also a Special Olympics Washington Athlete.

Standing over 6’3” John was a natural athlete, and it was through his participation in Special Olympics Washington that he found not only friends, but an extended family. He was an incredible athlete and won medals in a variety of sports such as swimming, basketball, bowling, track and bicycling.

On and off the field, court or track John lived to dream big and inspire those around him. Following high school he obtained 50 credits at Skagit Valley College and was honored by the Washington Governor as a Youth Leadership Forum counselor.

Late in 2016 John suddenly and unexpectedly passed away at only 27 years old, but his legacy continues. This year, he will be honored at the annual Dash and Splash for Special Olympics Washington on March 11. All are welcome to come plunge, run, donate, or cheer on the brave souls supporting an organization that was lucky enough to have John as part of it.

All proceeds from the Anacortes Polar Plunge benefit local Special Olympics Washington Athletes.

Donate or learn more: http://anacortesplunge2017.kintera.org
The town is going to be abuzz with activity on April 8th for the 9th annual Anacortes Spring Wine Festival. We welcome 30 wineries from across the state, local restaurants dishing up delightful food pairings as well as samples of amazing chocolates, cheeses and oil and vinegars. On site wine shop so you can take home some of your favorite wines.

Tickets on sale now, $80 for the VIP experience which includes an hour earlier entry (beginning at noon) so you can have a more intimate time with winemakers, a collectors swag bag and special lounge area. General Admission is just $55 with entry at 1:00pm.

The festival closes at 5:00pm so there’s plenty of time to catch dinner at your favorite local restaurant and listen to some great music at several downtown establishments.

For a full list of wineries, food pairings and to purchase tickets, go to anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival. You can also keep up to date with the event on our Facebook page, Anacortes Spring Wine Festival.

Thank you so much to our sponsors that make the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival possible!

Magnum Sponsor
Anacortes American Bank of the Pacific
Colleen Craig at Windermere Heritage Bank
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
TCC Verizon, Cellular Connection
Trident Seafoods

Bottle Sponsor
Peoples Bank

Bota Sponsor
Allen Workman at John L Scott
Apothecary Spa
Best Western Plus of Oak Harbor
Scott Milo at the Framemaker

The 2017 Waterfront Festival is just around the corner!

The Anacortes Waterfront Festival is a treasured event, kicking off the summer season here on Fidalgo Island. This community-focused, family event brings thousands of guests to Anacortes the first weekend of June.

Planning for the festival has begun and there are many ways that your business can be involved. You can become a sponsor of the festival, join the festival committee, have your business operate a children’s activity booth, volunteer at the info booth, design and assemble a vessel with your kids for the Milk Carton Derby, or put a team together to compete in the Quick and Dirty Boat Building demo.

Sponsorship of the Anacortes Waterfront Festival is a great opportunity to highlight your business, show community involvement and be part of a weekend of activities in Anacortes. There are many sponsorship levels available with promotional opportunities for your business. Contact Nancy Rytand, nrytand@anacortes.org, to discuss the best way to involve your business in this popular community event.
Thanks...

Thank you to the City of Anacortes Mayor Gere for presenting and hosting, to Interpreting Technology for sponsoring our February Luncheon and to Gere-a-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Police Department
- Bella Ve’ Permanent Makeup
- City of Anacortes
- Edward Jones – Jeffery Pleet
- Interpreting Technology
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- Peoples Bank
- United Way of Skagit County

Thank you to The Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center at Island Hospital for hosting our February Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
- Boeing Company
- Farmers Insurance – Stacey Rustad-Smith
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
- Gene Erwin
- Interpreting Technology
- Island Hospital
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- My Biz Pro
- Natural Way Chiropractic
- Steve Berentson
- Toy Stories
- Welcome Wagon

New members

American Cultural Bridge, LLC
12796 Quantum Lane #16
Anacortes, WA 98221
(206) 604-8343
Qi Lou
qilou@whiteloftsilk.com

Anchor Taxis
1009 9th St, Suite 102
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 755-6979
Melba Falk
jason@anchortaxis.com

Bunnies By The Bay
3115 V Place
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-8037
Nicole Turner
suzanne@bunniesbythebay.com
www.bunniesbythebay.com

City Tree Service
3520 Commercial
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-202-6369
Jessica or Dakota Barnes
citytreeservice@hotmail.com

Tammy Cotton Farmers Insurance Agency
535 Market St, Suite B
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-0414
Stacey Smith
stacey@cottoninsuranceagency.com
http://cottoninsuranceagency.com

TLS Enterprises DBA H&R Block
1706 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-4776
Katherine Kelly
madavis@hrblock.com

Eagle Aerial Imaging
4510 Queen Ann Way
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 630-1736
Les Branch
lobbranch@gmail.com
http://eagleaerialimaging.com

Member renewals

- Ace Hardware
- Anacortes American/Your Fidalgo
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Econo-Wash
- Anacortes Inn
- Anacortes Senior Activity Center
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Cascade Loop Scenic Highway
- Charlie & Ute Collins DDS
- Chemtrades Solutions LLC
- Chicago Title Company
- City of Anacortes
- Clark, Duane
- CPI Plumbing & Heating
- Dakota Creek Industries
- Decker, Tom & Wong, Nancy
- Edward Jones – Gary Thramer AAMS
- Gere-a-Deli
- Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Heritage Bank
- Intermex Networks
- Island Transport Ferry Service, Inc.
- Judd & Black
- Les Schwab Tire Center
- Marina Inn Hotel
- McCary Creative
- Pacific Marine Center
- Peoples Bank
- Port of Anacortes
- Portalis LLC
- Puget Sound Energy
- Reisner Distributor Inc
- Richardson, Cynthia
- RIS Insurance
- Salvation Army, The
- Samish Indian Nation
- Scott Richards Insurance, Inc.
- SeaBear
- Secret Harbor
- Sheely’s Floral & Gifts
- Skagit Bank
- Smith, Ron & Anne
- The Store
- Tracys Furniture
- Umpqua Bank
- Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
- Washington Federal
- Williams & Nulle CPA, PLLC
- Windermere Real Estate
Lee and Betty Dawes

Lee and Betty Dawes lived in Denver, Colorado for 25 years where they raised their two boys. Both were involved in aviation; Lee in corporate flying and Betty as a flight attendant for a local feeder airline.

Taking an early retirement, they decided to buy a 40 foot sailboat in Seattle. They sold their home in Denver and downsized to a small storage locker. The boat became their home for the next 17 years. They would spend summers exploring the San Juan Islands. Each time the ventured out, they would go further; up in to the Canadian islands and all the way to Alaska. One year they circumnavigated Vancouver Island. They then sailed out the Strait of Juan de Fuca and on down the coast, eventually ending up in the Sea of Cortez. They spent three years going up and down the area. They then decided to head back to the states, via Hawaii! 22 days later, they arrived in Hilo, visited three of the islands and then headed back to the west coast. They spent that winter as care takers on a private Canadian island. The following summer, they discovered Anacortes, found a slip and spent the winter here. After all of that sailing, they decided to plant their feet firmly back on land. They sold their boat on a Monday and signed the papers for their new home in Anacortes on that Wednesday where they joined the West End Patrol. To learn more about Anacortes and Fidalgo Island, they decided to volunteer at the Anacortes Visitor Center in 1999. They enjoy helping our guests and answering questions, telling them all about Fidalgo Island; its history, merchants and sights to see, sending them out the door with a smile on their faces. They love being able to interact with people from all over the world that come in to the VIC. They feel fortunate to enjoy the reassurance of living here in Anacortes.
chamber officers

Executive Board

CHAIRMAN
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

VICE CHAIRMAN
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed and Breakfast

TREASURER
Mary LaFleur ALT Insurance

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

PAST CHAIRMAN
Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

Board of Directors

Patti Anderson Williams & Nulle
Sandra Benton THink Studios
Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Kristi Gabrielse Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co
Diana Jordan-New Bank of the Pacific
John Olsen Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Leslie Powell Lighthouse Memory Care
Gina Walsh Peoples Bank
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District
Peter Whiting Seattle Yachts
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton President
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Director
Nancy Ryland Events & Communications Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

Thank you, volunteers!

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

experience ANACORTES™
your island getaway

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

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, plus chocolate & cheese tastings.

anicortes.org/spring-wine-festival

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.™

Photography by Steve Berentson