Skagit Valley College is proud to be part of a community that embraces civic-minded leadership, service, and engagement. They connect with individuals and organizations who give back to SVC and the community:

Leadership Skagit — an initiative founded in 2003 by EDASC, SVC, and WSU — works with current and emerging leaders in Skagit County. The program brings together individuals from the public, private, and non-profit sectors who are committed to making a difference. Participants develop an understanding of the richness, diversity, and complexity that make up Skagit County. Learn more online by visiting www.skagit.org/leadershipskagit

TESORO Refining and Marketing Company is this month’s luncheon sponsor. The Tesoro Anacortes refinery has been a part of the local community for over 60 years. Since it first began operations back in 1955, their employees and contractors have been proud to call Anacortes and the surrounding communities home. Tesoro employees and their families engage in the community through a variety of activities and volunteer organizations including youth sports, scouting, PTA and joining the boards of local civic and charitable organizations. Tesoro supports these efforts through their employee contribution matching program and their new Dollars for Doers program that augments volunteer hours with grants from the Tesoro Foundation. Tesoro is privileged to be a part of the Anacortes community and are proud to continue investments in both the refinery and the local community.

The lunch will take place Thursday, May 11th at the Majestic Inn and Spa, located at 419 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!

Please join us on May 18 from 5:30-7:00pm at Ace Hardware here in Anacortes, 1720 “O” Avenue, for this month’s business after hours.

Ace Hardware of Anacortes is your locally owned and operated hardware store that has been doing business in Anacortes since 1979. The current owners, Randy and Alyssa Burgess, have been involved in the store since 1986 and recently purchased it from the previous owners Pat and Judy Strand in January of 2016.

Ace Hardware has recently developed a business-to-business division, which is managed by Brent Robin. The focus is on small business needs to allow them to focus on their business, not their supplies. Ace offers many products and services that most business owners are not aware of. They can help with restaurants, hotel/motels, janitorial needs, manufacturing, healthcare and much more.

If you, as a chamber member, are looking for a reliable, cost effective supplier for your small business needs, please plan to attend this business after hours and meet the Burgess’ and Brent learn how you can save time and money.

Besides an award winning retail store, Ace also has a complete outdoor garden nursery and small engine and electrical sales and repair center.

We look forward to seeing you Thursday, May 18 from 5:30-7:00pm, remember that gifts for the giveaway are welcome! RSVP to the chamber online or by calling the office at 293-7911.
Winter is finally over and spring is here! As most of you are aware this also kicks off the "guest" and boating season when our streets and business traffic become increasingly more crowded.

This is a great time to practice our community kindness and patience. I would like to urge all of you to make the extra effort to welcome those that are visiting our exciting and vibrant island.

Be vigilant in spreading the cheer and consider parking for your work day in off-street areas, saving the central curb parking for our guests that are here to spend money in our businesses and feed our local economy.

-Brian Johnson,
Anacortes Construction Services
Board Chair

Member Profile

Verizon TCC

A Unique Wireless Experience

TCC Anacortes opened their doors in Anacortes in August of 2014 serving customers from Anacortes as well as the surrounding communities in Island County and Skagit County. They are very appreciative of the communities and customers that have come through their doors.

The fact that virtually everyone has a mobile device will come as no shock to anyone, but many people are surprised to learn that their neighborhood Verizon location is owned and operated by a Premium Authorized Retailer.

So what’s the difference? If you’re looking to get a phone and get service through Verizon, not a whole lot. They offer the same devices at the same price on the same great 4G LTE network.

What sets TCC apart as a company is their belief in these three ideals: Customers Matter, Employees Matter, and Community Matters. It’s what they call the Virtuous Circle of Success, and they live and breathe it.

Employees at TCC are challenged to embrace the power they have to “do good” through their Culture of Good movement. They volunteer in their local communities because that’s their home. They reward employees because they’re what keeps the business running. They take care of their customers because that’s what they deserve.

This quarter their Culture of Good event is called ‘Nursing Homes Rock’ and involves employees going into a community nursing home with ‘Care Kits’ and spending some time with the residents. These Care Kits include crafting supplies, playing cards, etc. for the residents to enjoy. They will be holding this event during National Nursing Home Week, May 14 – 20. To see more of their Culture of Good events please visit CultureofGood.com.

And, at the end of the day… they still sell phones and stuff. Their staff has over 25 years of cellular experience. Come to TCC for:
- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Dish & Cable Service
- Home Internet
Leslie Elvebak-Powell made her move to Anacortes when she met the love of her life, Scott. She will tell you it was like “coming home.” Raised in Skagit County by parents from Burlington and Anacortes (specifically Campbell Lake), it wouldn’t seem like much of a stretch. But she actually took the long way here. After high school attending SVC then going on to Washington State she decided to follow the siren call that took her on adventures that she would’ve never dreamed would make up her life.

Working for Norwegian Cruise Line, for the DOD in Japan and on the US Navy Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Ronald Reagan CVN 76, the list of places she’s visited and lived kept growing.

They have done a lot of traveling around the world and enjoy helping people with their problems. Jack is an expert in hiking trail adventures and has walked all the ACFL trails four times. He has spent many hours kayaking around the San Juan Islands as well as all six lakes on our island. He enjoys being a member of OARS (Old Anacortes Rowing Society) and rows with his crew twice a week. Nancy’s activities are more passive - bridge and book club - exercising her mind rather than her body, but she is the expert on what all the stores have to offer a visiting guest.

In 2011 they both finished walking every street in Anacortes and their friends started referring to them as the “street walkers.” They still walk almost every day. They enjoy meeting all the people and their dogs. Anacortes is a very friendly town, and as an additional bonus, most people have a sense of humor.

Stop by the Visitors Center to meet all the other hard working volunteers.

 Leslie Powell

Leslie Elvebak-Powell made her move to Anacortes when she met the love of her life, Scott. She will tell you it was like “coming home.” Raised in Skagit County by parents from Burlington and Anacortes (specifically Campbell Lake), it wouldn’t seem like much of a stretch. But she actually took the long way here. After high school attending SVC then going on to Washington State she decided to follow the siren call that took her on adventures that she would’ve never dreamed would make up her life.

Working for Norwegian Cruise Line, for the DOD in Japan and on the US Navy Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Ronald Reagan CVN 76, the list of places she’s visited and lived kept growing.

Living and visiting abroad has only increased Leslie’s interest in home and roots and supportingyourlocal. She feels it’s her responsibility to be active in the community that she lives in and that you can only benefit by paying attention to the things going on around us.

When living in Juneau Alaska, Leslie worked for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. The perspective that she gained provided invaluable education about community, the importance of having a voice and how commerce impacts everyday lives. Knowing what the chamber represents in a community, it was a no brainer that she wanted to become a part of it. She quickly felt the roots growing in this community and volunteered to be an Ambassador. When she was asked about joining the board, she was honored and jumped at the chance. She understands that there are professionals in each field for a reason, no one can know it all, and what a great resource to surround yourself with experts.

Leslie and Scott and their chocolate lab Maggie Mae love to be on the boat fishing and exploring the San Juan Islands. They also enjoy supporting local Anacortes businesses whether its dinner out, grocery shopping, oil changes, etc. While they still love to do their share of travelling, something she learned, is how much you come to appreciate this beautiful place we call home.

Sidenote: Leslie has a long experience in the world of calling BINGO. These moments are limited now, but she has been spotted fundraising for her passions calling BINGO games and telling terrible jokes. This rare photo captures one of those moments.
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We take the burden of business supply management off your shoulders.
With an Ace Commercial Account, we deliver:
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Contact our B2B specialist Brent at brobi@aceanacortes.com or call 360-402-5589 or apply online today at TheSupplyPlace.com/05588

Anacortes Sister Cities Association celebrates Canada’s 150th Birthday

Last year, Anacortes and Sidney BC celebrated their 20th anniversary as Sister Cities. This year, Sidney celebrates its 50th anniversary. And on July 1st, several Anacortes Sister Cities Association (ASCA) members and friends will participate in Sidney’s Canada Day festivities celebrating Canada’s 150th birthday.

The unique relationship between Anacortes and Sidney began as the two cities joined forces (along with the Chambers of Commerce from both cities, EDASC, and more) to successfully resist efforts to close the Washington State Ferries’ Anacortes/Sidney ferry run. The outcome of those efforts not only saved the ferry run, but also resulted in the establishment of a Sister Cities relationship for two close international neighbors. In addition, to the delight of all parties, Anacortes was captivated by the idea, following Sidney’s lead, of having its own Town Crier.

So, for the past 20 years, Anacortes has begun and enjoyed a most unique international cultural and colorful experience. Judy Jewell, Anacortes’ first Town Crier and current Town Crier, Rich Riddell have entertained audiences at home and around the world, winning international competitions in the process.

ASCA and the Sidney Sister Cities Association participate in each other’s holiday parades and enjoy sharing art in many forms. Both associations also participate in the annual spring opening of the Anacortes/Sidney ferry run, highlighted by the shortest international party in the world. It typically lasts about 15 minutes, then the travelers return to the ferry for the ride home.

From the members and friends of ASCA - Happy 50th Birthday to

Thank you!!

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the 2017 Spring Wine Festival a success. We had wineries from across Washington State here in our seaside town to pour tastings of our state’s superb wine offerings to over 1,000 guests in attendance. The community support for the VIP bags as well as the use of umbrellas was so appreciated by all!

We want to thank the caterers that served at the festival, 5th Street Bistro, Dad’s Diner, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican, Gere-a-Deli, Taylor Shellfish, and Vivi’s Kitchen, and La Conner Seafood and Prime Rib.

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, Bank of the Pacific, Anacortes American, Colleen Craig with Windermere Real Estate, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Swinomish Casino & Lodge, TCC Verizon–Cellular Connections, Trident Seafoods, Birch Equipment, Heritage Bank, Island Rentals and Supply, Peoples Bank, Skagit Bank, The Apothecary Spa, Best Western Plus Oak Harbor, Fidalgo Bay Resort, Scott Milo Gallery, and Tri-County Recycling.

From a post-event survey, we collected the following data (through the 148 responses we received):


VIP Ticket holders were more likely to stay overnight 31.04% to 27.73% compared to General Admission and Designated Drivers.

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 our Chair, Diana Jordan-New of Bank of the Pacific, the countless volunteers who helped leading up to and throughout 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!
Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling at Trident Seafoods Corp

Get ready for the big reveal as the 28th Annual Waterfront Festival poster is unveiled on Thursday, 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/Anacortes Brewery/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 make from the highest quality ingredients.


San Juan Vineyards was founded in 1996. Yvonne Swanberg has been operating San Juan Vineyards since 2002, and now is the sole owner.

Thank you to the following 2017 Waterfront Festival sponsors:
Presenting Sponsor: Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Venue Sponsor: Port of Anacortes
Fleet Sponsors: Dakota Creek Industries, Island Hospital and Trident Seafood Corporation
Admiralty Sponsors: RE/MAX Gateway, Skagit Valley Herald and Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company
Vice-Admiralty Sponsors: Anthony’s Restaurant, Bank of the Pacific, Quantum Construction, Samish Indian Nation, Scott Milo Gallery at the Framemaker.
Commodore Sponsors: Judd & Black, CPI Plumbing and Swimominsh Casino & Lodge
Captain Sponsors: Anacortes American, Birch Equipment, Edward Jones, Jeffrey Pleet, Gere-a-Deli, Irishman Enterprises, Pacific Party Canopies, Peoples Bank, Skagit Bank, Anacortes Visitors Information Center and Williams & Nulle CPA, PLLC
Boatswain Sponsors: Fidalgo Bay Resort, Lakeside Industries, Mystic Sea Charters and Tri-County Recycling

ANACORTES WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
KICK-OFF DINNER
June 2nd 2017 at 6pm
$50 Single Ticket $95 Per Couple $395 Table of 8
Tickets can be purchased online at portofanacortes.com or by phone

Hors d’oeuvres & Drinks on the Pier • Community Presentations
Dance to the Music of D.J. Mike Jenkins
Port Transit Shed Event Center • 100 Commercial Ave • Anacortes • 360-293-3134
thanks...

Thank you to Caliber Home Loans for Sponsoring the April Luncheon and to Gere-a-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Bayside Specialties
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Interpreting Technology
- Skagit Publishing
- United Way

Thank you to Alley Cat Antiques and Marine Supply & Hardware for hosting our April Business After Hours, and to Bob’s Chowder Bar and BBQ Salmon for the delicious chowder. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Alley Cat Antiques
- Cascade Resources and Consulting
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- KeyBank
- Lil’ Tugs Children’s Boutique
- Marine Supply & Hardware Co.
- People’s Bank
- Skagit Land Trust
- Toy Stories

2017 ambassadors

- Ericka Bakkom – E Fresh Design, LLC
- Taylor Bannister – Boys & Girls Club
- Jeremy Carter – Washington National Guard
- Barry Harter – Central Payment Corp.
- Rich Heidecker – Youth Dynamics
- Mindy Holland – Interpreting Technology
- Sarah Jurkovich – Washington Federal
- Jeri Kaufman – Welcome Wagon
- Kristy Mahoney – Land Title & Escrow
- Dan Maul – Classic Style & Company
- Jessica Nguyen – Peoples Bank
- Richard Riddell – Edward Jones
- Bill Robards – North Sound Pest Solutions
- Cathy Rockwell – Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
- Stacey Rustad-Smith – Tammy Cotton Farmers Insurance Agency
- Sarah Sanders – Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Veronica Spencer – Take Shape For Life
- Mary Staley – Marketing WITH Mary
- Brianna Vyrosteck – Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Charles Yousling – Waddell & Reed Inc

member renewals

- Anacortes Dockers Toastmasters Club
- Anacortes Lions Club
- Anacortes Property Management
- Anacortes Schools Foundation
- Anacortes Sister Cities Association
- Anacortes U-Save Auto Rental
- An-O-Chords
- Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism
- Discovery Inn
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Highliner Charters
- Kiwanis Shop, The
- Lil’ Tugs Children’s Boutique
- Manpower
- McCormick, Drina @ John L. Scott Real Estate
- Micro AeroDynamics, Inc.
- Petersen, Karen @ John L. Scott Real Estate
- Playhouse Dental
- Red Salon
- San Juan Airlines
- Sound Events
- Sunrise Inn Villas and Suites
- Surety Pest Control
- United Way of Skagit County

new members

Alaska Boat Brokers South
Steve Brown
(360) 395-5716
Steve@alaskaboatbrokers.com
2201 Skyline Way Unit 202, Anacortes, WA
www.alaskaboatbrokers.com

Skagit Land Trust
Laura Hartner
1020 S Third Street, Mount Vernon, WA
(360) 428-7878
laurah@skagitlandtrust.org
www.skagitlandtrust.org/

AdventureTerra LLC
Leo Fischer
9520 Daniel Court, Bainbridge Island, WA
(206) 914-8613
contact@adventureterra.com
www.AdventureTerra.com

Oyster Run, Inc.
Jeff Arnold
Anacortes, WA
(360) 770-1210
oysterrunina@gmail.com
oysterrun.org

LeGros Buchanan & Paul
Merrilee Harrell
2415 T Avenue, Suite 208, Anacortes, WA
(360) 293-7832
mharrell@legros.com
www.legros.com

Dandelion Adventures
Michele Duncan King
1005 6th St, Anacortes, WA
(541) 480-0105
Michele.DandelionLife@gmail.com
www.dandelionadventuresinlife.com

Goodwin, Ken
(206) 300-6200
ken1822@gmail.com
Congratulations to Deanna Brzeg on the opening of Salt & Vine, a new boutique shop serving gourmet treats. Shown here are Deanna and her family, Board Chairman Brian Johnson, and community supporters.

Congratulations to Alley Cat Antiques and Marine Supply & Hardware Company on their newly consolidated spaces. Featured here are Lea Mayberry (current owner of both), Steve Demopoulos (former owner for Marine Supply), Mayor Laurie Gere, Board Chairman Brian Johnson, plus many employees, family and friends!

Congratulations to Skagit Bank on the remodeling of their Anacortes branch. Shown here are Mayor Laurie Gere Board Chairman Brian Johnson, Ken Johnson, Steve Henery, Crystal Eddy and Cheryl Bishop with Skagit Bank

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting effective leadership in our community. As such, the chamber board has elected to once again offer a scholarship to Leadership Skagit for one of its members. Each annual class forms in September and then continues for the next nine months, promoting leadership, networking skills and giving back to our community. Scholarship procedures are as follows:

- The chamber will cover the $1,600 tuition cost to the Leadership Skagit program out of its general fund. Scholarship recipient responsible for $100 of the tuition. Completed applications are due to the chamber by Monday, May 15th.

- All chamber members and their employees are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- Graduates will be invited to a chamber board meeting to share their experience. Applications and additional information are available through the chamber office - or email Stephanie at shamilton@anacortes.org.
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
Teresa Wainman San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill
Gina Walsh Peoples Bank
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District
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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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Summer Artwalk 2017

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND 6PM-9PM
SATURDAY JUNE 3RD 10AM-5PM

Join us for a combined First Friday Artwalk and Chamber Merchant Artwalk featuring businesses between 2nd Street and 10th Street.

Photography by Steve Berentson