calender

Wednesday, September 6   3:30pm  
   Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting  
   Chamber Office

Thursday, September 7    11:45am  
   Ambassador Meeting  
   Chamber Office

Tuesday, September 12    8:30am  
   Retail Trades Meeting  
   Chamber Office

Tuesday, September 12    10:00am  
   Marine Trades Division Meeting  
   Anacortes Yacht Club

Tuesday, September 12    4:00pm  
   Membership Division Meeting  
   Chamber Office

Wednesday, September 13  2:30pm  
   Economic & Development Division  
   Chamber Office

Thursday, September 14   11:30am  
   Chamber Luncheon  
   Fidalgo Bay Resort

Thursday, September 14   4:00pm  
   Multi Chamber After Hours  
   Farmstrong Brewing Co.

Friday, September 15     10:30am  
   Finance/Executive Meeting  
   Chamber Office

Tuesday, September 19    3:30pm  
   Board Meeting  
   Anacortes Public Library

Thursday, September 21   5:30pm  
   Business After Hours  
   Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living

Tuesday, September 26    9:00am  
   Visitor Center Volunteer Meeting  
   Chamber Office

chamber luncheon

State of the County

Commissioner Ron Wesen will be presenting the State of the County focusing on the first ever Five Year Strategic Plan to set goals and priorities for all county departments. He will discuss on-going issues with water rights that affect agriculture and building permits and how the state capital budget and the Hirst decision come into play. He will also present on hiring and recruitment of county workers, the Burlington Northern Overpass Project, the new community justice center and the Guemes Island ferry replacement project.

Joining Mr. Wesen will be Dr. Patrick Jones, a professor at EWU, who will present findings from the Skagit County Trends website and how this tool can be useful for businesses.

The luncheon is sponsored by Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery. Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery is more than an oil refinery – it’s a place where generations of area residents have found jobs, built careers, supported families, and made a positive impact on our community. Their 700 employees and contractors work in a safe and environmentally responsible way to deliver the fuel that powers life in the Pacific Northwest. They are proud to operate in such a special place, and are dedicated to powering progress in our community!

The luncheon will take place at Fidalgo Bay Resort, 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, from 11:30am-1:00pm on Thursday, September 14th. 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

Fidalgo Care Center & Rosario Assisted Living invite chamber members, Thursday, September 21st from 5:30 – 7:00pm for this month’s Business After Hours.

Roe Family Facilities is owned and operated by local Anacortes resident Jim Roe. He acquired San Juan Rehabilitation in the late nineties and acquired Fidalgo Rehab and Care Center and Rosario Assisted Living in 2004. Fidalgo Rehab is the primary rehabilitation center for elders in the Anacortes community and also serves Whidbey Island residents. Rosario has 84 private apartments that includes 28 specialized Memory Care beds for those suffering from the effects of dementia. San Juan Rehab is in the process of transitioning from a skilled nursing facility, to assisted living, to better serve the elders of our community. This will give more options for seniors unable to stay at home or go back home after rehab.

Jim Roe’s philosophy is resident centered care. When you make decisions in the best interests of the elder then it is the best for everyone.

Rosario Assisted Living is located at 1105 26th St, right across from the hospital emergency entrance. Enjoy nibbles, beverages, networking and of course, gifts for the giveaway are always welcome! Please RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911.
**a message from your president**

School started last week – a bitter sweet time for our students: the freedom of summer is over and the opportunities to sleep in are limited to weekends. Students must begin again to focus on learning and working – and that includes attending school daily.

Recently the chamber was approached by the high school to partner for improving student attendance and why it matters to business leaders.

I was given statistics that were quite startling on how chronic absenteeism can affect student success starting as young as preschool, and if continued throughout elementary school it can be a strong indicator of not completing high school. Chronic absenteeism has been defined by some researchers as missing 10% of school or 18 days per school year. It is also defined as anytime school is missed: vacation, illness, excused and unexcused absence.

So, why does this matter to business leaders:

Missing too much instructional time has significant, negative and lasting consequences beyond the obvious effects on student performance. Regular attendance is the precursor to the “soft skills” that employers will continue to expect and require. Students who fail to develop the habits associated with good attendance in the early years will find it difficult to develop them as adults.

Furthermore, children who are sick miss school and their parents miss work. Employers have a real stake in reducing the number of days that children stay home due to preventable illness.

Businesses recognize that students who built good attendance habits in school grow up to be employees who show up for work! The number one complaint I am hearing lately for business owners in regards to the workforce is they just want people to show up for their shift.

The business community can make a difference by offering incentives for good/improved attendance, talking to other business leaders about the role attendance plays in improving achievement and school success and educating their own employees about the importance of good attendance. They can also encourage employees to volunteer as mentors for students who are missing too much school.

When you encounter students after school give them a high five for attending and tell them you look forward to watching them graduate.

- Stephanie Hamilton
  President

**tourism update**

We have officially developed, and have begun to promote, our first article (written by our partner Lara Dunning) commissioned with funding through the Port of Seattle grant that we were awarded earlier this year.

The grant is focused on generating additional out-of-state visitor travel to Washington and/or increase nonresident travel related expenditures, while increasing air traffic to Seattle Tacoma International Airport (STIA), growth of visitors at the cruise terminals, and/or increased use of the Port’s recreational marinas.

You can find the article on the anacortes.org website right now, and you can be in-the-know when future articles are posted by subscribing to our Anacortes Scene e-news. Visit anacortes.org/sign-up-for-our-newsletters to subscribe.

Four more articles are in the works - another with tourism partner and local Steve Berentson, plus two more with a California-based travel blogger. One of her articles will specifically be focusing on mid-week activities, with the hopes of extending the stay of potential guests.

Beyond the Port of Seattle grant, we also have two more scheduled visits from travel bloggers before the end of the year, so stay tuned to our social media accounts for shares on their articles and posts!
Since the 1950s, Shell Oil Company and its employees have called Anacortes “home.” While a lot has changed since that time, Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery’s (PSR) role in producing important fuel products for our region and its commitment to supporting our community has not – in fact, it’s stronger than ever.

Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery fulfills a vital regional role as a West Coast gasoline, diesel and jet fuel producer, creating a reliable source of needed energy products with a steadfast commitment to safety, health and protecting the environment. The roughly 700 employees and contractors at PSR work to produce more than 25% of the fuels used in the Pacific Northwest, and this helps power our region forward.

Operations Update:
The refinery will have planned maintenance – also known as a turnaround – on several pieces of processing equipment starting in September. The turnaround will last roughly six weeks.

The turnaround will focus on sustaining the refinery’s asset integrity and reliability performance, which enables the site to continue operating in a manner that protects people and the environment. In addition, the site will put more process safety barriers in place and also improve its electrical infrastructure.

The turnaround will peak at over 2,500 people on-site per day, making this the largest turnaround in the refinery’s history. Shell predicts an influx of at least $2.5 million in new consumer spending in the area from turnaround workers during the event, with most of this economic activity coming from spending on food and lodging.

All workers who enter the site will undergo safety training and onboarding to ensure they are aligned with Shell’s expectations and commitment to delivering a turnaround with zero safety and environmental incidents.

For additional details about the turnaround as it grows closer, please visit our website (www.shell.us/pugetsoundrefinery), or by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/pugetsoundrefinery) and Twitter (twitter.com/Shell_Anacortes).

We are very proud to be a part of this community, and it’s a privilege to live, recreate and operate in such a special place. Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery is honored to be your neighbor and to call Anacortes “home.” Whether it’s at the Fueling Education Fun Run, Community Appreciation Day, Waterfront Festival, 4th of July parade or the Anacortes Christmas parade, we hope to see you soon!
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We take the burden of business supply management off your shoulders.
With an Ace Commercial Account, we deliver:
• Janitorial and sanitation products
• Property management supplies
• Paper products and more
Contact our B2B specialist Brent at brobi@aceanacortes.com or call 360-402-5589 or apply online today at TheSupplyPlace.com/05588

BIER ON THE PIER

OCTOBER 6TH
5pm-9pm
OCTOBER 7TH
12PM-6PM

30 BREWERIES
FOOD + MUSIC
CIDERIES
ANACORTES.ORG/BEER

2017 Anacortes Bier on the Pier Festival

The cries of cheers once again herald the arrival of Anacortes Bier on the Pier! A two-day extravaganza of bier, ciders, food and music! Bring your thirst, and leave room to enjoy the smorgasbord of all the tasty foods on the pier, to talk shop with fellow aficionados, debate your vote in the People’s Choice competition, or stomp and swing to live tunes.

Want to get into the festival for free? Sign up to be a volunteer! This two-day festival takes many hands to make light work. Volunteering is a 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. You can sign up to volunteer online, go to anacortes.org/beer or call 360-293-7911.

October 6th 5:00–9:00pm
October 7th 12:00–6:00 pm
Port of Anacortes Transit Event Center
100 Commercial Avenue

Friday Tickets: $25 in advance - $30 at the door
Saturday Tickets: $30 in advance - $35 at the door
Two-Day Pass: $50 in advance
Designated Driver Tickets $5 for each day
Tickets are available for purchase online at anacortes.org/beer

LIVE MUSIC!
FRIDAY NIGHT
Ebb Slack & Flood
R&B, Funk and Reggae

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
Intuitive Compass
Original Folk Show Of The West

SATURDAY NIGHT
Gin Gypsy
Rock-a-Swing-a-Blues-a-Billy

Mystic Sea Charters
Whale Watching Cruises
Orca/Humpback
May 4 – Oct 8
710 Seafarers Way, Anacortes, WA
1.800.308.9387
MysticSeaCharters.com
Cheers to our Bier on the Pier Sponsors!

Keg Sponsors

Growler Sponsors

Yard Sponsors

Stein Sponsors:
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Tri County Recycling

Coaster Sponsors:
- Penguin Coffee
- Irving Construction

Shred-a-Thon

Saturday, September 16th
9AM-1PM
Walgreens Parking Lot

$10 Minimum/$20 Suggested Per Box

Join us for appetizers, door prizes, brewery tours and 20% off beer for chamber members!

Thursday, September 14
4pm to 6pm
110 Stewart Rd
Mount Vernon

Bring your old documents, disk drives and memory sticks to be destroyed!

All of the proceeds will support Anacortes’s own homeless shelter—serving women, children and families in crisis. Even if you don’t have documents to shred—donations are welcome and needed! Please stop by to support this important community organization.

AFC is a 501C3 Nonprofit organization—All donations are tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Heather at 360-293-2993 ext. 114
new members

Anacortes Community Health Council
Eric Johnson
(360) 840-5415
AnacortesEric@gmail.com
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.AnacortesCHC.org
Non-Profit

Cat Nap Inn
Kolleen Fox
(360) 724-3513
catnapinn@catnapinn.com
1244 Butler Creek Road
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
www.catnapinn.com
Travel, Animal Shelter

Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
Shona Martin
(360) 631-3869
shona@fidalgofinancial.com
PO BOX 413
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.fidalgofinancial.com
Financial Advisor

LoanDepot
Kurt McCloud
(360) 544-4083
kmcloud@loandepot.com
619 Commercial Ave
Ste. 24
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.loandepot.com/kmccloud
Real Estate - Loans

Lynne M Lang Accounting & Business Services Co.
Lynne Lang
(360) 588-1414
drlynne@hughes.net
2707 Commercial Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221
Tax Services, Accounting, Business Consultant

Northwest Educational Service
District 189
Brian McClay
(360) 299-4075
bmcclay@nwesd.org
1601 R Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.nwesd.org
Education

member renewals

- Anacortes Dental Care - David L. Olausen, D.D.S.
- Anacortes Extended Stay
- Anacortes Farmers Market
- Anthony’s Restaurant
- Blue Otter Outfitters
- Boeing Company, The
- Chinook Enterprises
- Costco Wholesale
- Favorite Associates, Inc.
- Fidalgo Animal Medical Center
- Flynn, Peggy
- Island Internal Medicine
- Kuhn, Tom
- Orcas Island Eclipse Charters & Whale Watch Tours
- Pestarino, Robin H.
- RE/MAX Gateway
- Ship House Inn
- Soria Real Estate
- Starbucks Coffee Company
- Trident Seafoods Corporation

On Friday, August 4th, the chamber staff toured the streets of the 56th annual Anacortes Arts Festival. Our mission was to find the 2017 “Community Partnership Award” recipient which the chamber has the privilege of selecting every year. We look for product, presentation and mostly personality, which artist fits the Anacortes community. Hands down, Erin Macleod from Portland won for us! She jumped right in and had us, and many others, trying on her snap around skirts, laughing and feeling good! Congratulations to Erin and the other winners, Heidi Klepper from Anacortes won Best of the Fest, and Julie Simon Broberg of Bellingham won the Best Booth Design Award. There were 260 Booth Artisans this year to choose from. Thank you, Anacortes Arts Festival, for honoring these artists.

2017 Ambassadors

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
Amber Rains - Bank of the Pacific

Richard Riddell – Edward Jones
Bill Robards – North Sound Pest Solutions
Stacey Rustad-Smith - Tammy Cotton Farmers Insurance Agency
Sarah Sanders – Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Veronica Spencer – Take Shape For Life
Brianna Vyrostek - Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc
Heather Zelazowski - Bank of the Pacific
Come see us for all your vehicle or vessel needs!

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Jessica Nguyen is a Real Estate Loan Officer at the Peoples Bank Anacortes Home Loan Center, and is focused on using her industry experience to ensure the home loan process is easy and approachable for clients. Although the mortgage industry is complex and ever-changing, Jessica stays up-to-date on industry standards so she can be readily available as a trusted resource for her clients. Whether it’s a new home, old home, or the same home, Jessica’s top priority is making sure clients are confident that they are in good hands and feel supported throughout the process. Jessica appreciates the opportunity to make the dream of homeownership a reality and enjoys building lasting relationships with her clients.

Whether she’s introducing a new member to the community or simply providing a friendly smile around town or at events, Jessica is proud to be a part of the vibrant Anacortes community. Jessica participates in chamber events and community events throughout the year including the Anacortes Wine Festival and the Island Hospital Foundation Golf Classic. Jessica is also a lifetime member of Beta Gamma Sigma, an International Business Honor Society that recognizes people by their outstanding scholarly achievement or top performers in their industry.

Jessica is originally from Southern California and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from California State University, San Bernardino. After graduating, Jessica relocated to the Skagit Valley in 2011 to be closer to family. Outside of the office, Jessica spends her time with her energy-filled five-year-old son, Nathan, and her fiancé Chris. Together, they spend time exploring the wonders of the Pacific Northwest.

Peoples Bank
A higher level of service.

When Captain Brett Ginther caught the entrepreneurial spirit, he was a Journeyman Pipe Fitter at a local ship yard. An older mentor of his advised that whatever he was doing when he turned 40, he would be doing the rest of his life. Brett thought that over, and wanted something more. As a Puget Sound gillnetter, Brett loved being on the water, but it took some dreaming before he could figure out how to do it full time.

Over the past decade, Brett has put action to the dream of creating his own business, and is still excited to see what each day holds.

Deception Pass Tours is finishing their 11th Season of wildlife and whale watching tours from their location in Anacortes. Their 33 passenger catamaran, the Island Whaler, has traveled through Deception Pass so often that the company is working to secure their spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Last month the company was chosen by Whidbey News Times as the top tourism attraction in the region, and they have received many awards from other television and magazine outlets.

Brett and his wife, Terica, have worked hard to build a business that the family can be proud of. Their children, Austin and Brooklyn, both work in the company during the summers. Austin is studying engineering at college, and Brooklyn is a senior in high school this year.

"Over the years, the finest humans in Anacortes have mentored the business and helped it grow. Having a mentor take you under their wing, as Shane Aggargaard did for me, is essential. And, without the ongoing support and encouragement of Skagit State Bank, and our banker, Mike Fredlund, we would not have grown to the nearly twenty employees we have today," said Captain Brett. "We foolishly started our business mere months before the Great Recession, and knowing our banker cared about our family, our employees, and whether or not we succeeded, has meant everything to us."

Deception Pass Tours operates hourly tours from their location at 5596 SR 20, Anacortes, WA 98221. More information and photos of the family and crew can be found at DeceptionPassTours.com.
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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<td>Thank you, volunteers!</td>
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Thank you, volunteers!

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

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Chris Long  Jolly Mon Charters

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Sandra Benton  Think Studios
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Kristi Gabrielse  Windermere
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Diana Jordan-New  Bank of the Pacific
John Olsen  Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
Jeff Pleet  Edward Jones
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Teresa Wainman  San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill
Gina Walsh  Peoples Bank
Mark Wenzel  Anacortes School District
Allen Workman  John L. Scott
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Sandy Swartos  Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik  Marketing & Promotions Director
Nancy Rytand  Events & Communications Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

Photography by Steve Berentson