chamber luncheon

Join us as we hear from Cascade Job Corps. Cascades Job Corps College and Career Academy is a pilot program that focuses on Career Pathways in the IT or Healthcare fields for students 16-21. This new program, under the Job Corps/DOL umbrella, provides a no cost college education, free housing, healthcare, and on-the-job training opportunities for all eligible students. The primary demographics served are low income students, those with documented disabilities, in the foster care system, or at risk youth. Cascades recruits students from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

The Academy has partnered with Skagit Valley College, Northwest Technical Career Academy, and Microsoft Imagine Academy to provide young adults the opportunity to complete a tuition free Associates Degree in the Healthcare field or an Associates of Technical Arts (ATA) Degree in Information Technology industries. Students also receive certifications that can place them directly into careers.

The luncheon is sponsored by United Way of Skagit County. In 55 years of working for stronger Skagit communities, United Way remains committed to the human spirit, the desire to help one another and the hard work required to create positive change. United Way collaborates to create and support programs and initiatives that lead to financially stable homes, ready-to-take-on-the-world children and thriving businesses.

Of specific note are exciting initiatives in the area of early childhood development. To learn more about these efforts see our website at UnitedWaySkagit.org or attend a United Way event such as the 2018 Live United Rally on April 26th from 11:15am-1pm at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge.

United Way is proud to be the partner of choice for over 70 local businesses (large and small) who value integrity, results, collaboration, and innovation. They leverage corporate and individual contributions to attract hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and gifts to Skagit county.

The lunch will take place at The Majestic Inn and Spa, 419 Commercial Ave, Thursday, April 12th, 11:30am-1:00pm. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $18 luncheon rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $20. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
**Come see us for all your vehicle or vessel needs!**

Registration renewals, title transfers, disabled parking placards, monthly tonnage, trip permits, dealer work.

819 COMMERCIAL AVE. STE. B • ANACORTES, WA 98221 • (360) 293-5533

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**a message from the president**

April is upon us – the tulips will be here soon and so will many of our visiting guests. This is a time to remind ourselves how we want our guests to experience our island getaway.

Here’s a reminder of how everyone should be welcomed as a G.U.E.S.T.:
- **Greeting** – say hello to our guests
- **Understanding** – listen for the way our guests’ feel
- **Efficiency** – respect our guests’ time
- **Special Treatment** – provide guests a pleasant surprise
- **Thankfulness** – be grateful for our guests

When you come across a guest on the street greet them – and remember a greeting is never a question.

Greeting: “Hello” “Nice to see you” “Welcome to Anacortes.”

Then you can follow up with a question: “Are you visiting our island?” “Why did you choose our island/Anacortes?” “You look like you have questions, may I assist you?”

I started greeting several years ago, and the response I get is always heartwarming and sparks meaningful conversations.

April is filled with many special events: The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival runs the entire month as does the Anacortes Quilt Walk. The Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is April 7 at the historic Port of Anacortes warehouse. The Anacortes Arts Festival holds the Color Run on April 14 and the sold-out Jimmy Buffett concert event that same evening. Rounding out this month of events is the very popular Anacortes Vintage Market on April 28 and 29. These events are designed to bring guests to our island – let’s focus on them and make them feel welcomed and appreciated.

-Stephanie Hamilton, President

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**spotlight on skagit**

Spotlight on Skagit: Shining a Light on Local Innovations will take place Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm at Van Zyverden’s Warehouse, 12035 Higgins Airport Way, Burlington.

EDASC’s Spotlight on Skagit (formerly Schmooze Fair) is Northwest Washington’s premier business-to-business trade show! It is the place to be if you want to learn about the diverse industries, businesses, and non-profits that contribute to Skagit County’s economy.

This year EDASC is expanding Spotlight on Skagit’s focus to showcase the world-class innovation being generated right here in Skagit County. New this year will be an Innovation Speaker Series featuring Skagit County businesses and the innovative products, practices, and ideas developed here.

General admission tickets can be purchased at www.skagit.org or at the door.

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**dinner auction tickets on sale now $150 each**

360-299-4201 or online at www.myihf.org/events

Heartstrings “Raise the Paddle” will be dedicated in funding needs at our local Marysville Grace Cancer Foundation will support patient programs, services and equipment at Island Hospital.

Corporate sponsorships available, visit for details.
tourism update

The Port of Seattle has reserved advertising locations at Sea-Tac Airport for use by local cities and communities, and have named this program Spotlight, highlighting the focus on local communities.

The purpose of Spotlight is to give organizations the opportunity to impact Sea-Tac airport travelers with an awareness of destinations, attractions, activities and events occurring in our region and state that will increase the number of visitors and their economic impact on an area.

Anacortes has secured a Single-Sided Diorama that will be at the South Satellite area of the airport from April through June. We will then have an opportunity, through a lottery system, for possible third and fourth quarter marketing.

Over 46.9 million passengers, on 28 airlines, passed through the Sea-Tac Airport in 2017 - this is an exciting new partnership for 2018!

barry harter

According to Barry Harter, the best way to grow up is to have a nurturing and loving family on a Midwestern Dairy Farm. The lesson learned was hard work, early mornings, and love the Earth. Barry graduated from Walter P. Chrysler Memorial High School in New Castle, Indiana, where basketball was king. It was home to the largest High School Basketball Arena in the world in 1969. Hoosier Hysteria was their guiding light! He attended Ball State University for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education that landed him employment in Georgia, Indiana, and Washington. After 8 years of teaching, the hospitality business became a reality with becoming a manager at "The Coug" in Pullman, WA.

1982 was the best move ever by relocating to Anacortes and spending 11 years at Boomers Landing Restaurant as a manager. 1990 was his happiest year when marrying Brenda Kay Stock in Hawaii. They are having a wonderful and exciting time living in the Magic Skagit. 1993 a purchase of Axelson’s Cafe in Burlington was a dream come true, providing a successful food and beverage concept to the Skagit Valley. 2004 the Cafe was sold, and another new form of hospitality was born. Barry is now employed with Central Payment Corporation and it has been the perfect fit to help others with their acceptance of credit cards and point of sale equipment. Barry says, “It is such a rewarding pleasure to help business owners of any size save time and money with their Point of Sale.”

"Do unto Others as you want them to do unto you" is a great way to live! Being involved with The Fidalgo Island Rotary Club, Anacortes Chamber, Lutherwood Bible Camp, Lutheran Church, SICBA, and many Networking Groups allows Barry to give back wherever needed. Currently an Anacortes Board member and Ambassador has been beneficial to serving our waterfront community. When not volunteering, Barry likes organic gardening, playing golf, and traveling. It is the recipe for relaxation and fulfillment. Love to Live and Love to Volunteer!
This year, Experience Anacortes will be at the 2018 Northwest Travel Writers Conference, better known as Travel & Words, as a Destination Marketing Organization exhibitor! The conference happens in Yakima from April 22nd through April 24th. Anacortes is one of 18 selected destinations from the Northwest, and we will have the opportunity to reach close to 100 freelance writers from the area.

We need your help for Door Prizes and Giveaways
The conference organizers have encouraged the DMOs to bring a door prize, and/or bring giveaway items to distribute at our tables. What’s going to work best? Local items or products that represent the destination are best! Past door prizes have included food and beverage products, small household items, and gift certificates — so, pretty much anything we could use to create an incredible gift basket or gift box representing the highlights of Fidalgo Island.

If you are interested in donating something to share with a travel writer, please bring it by the chamber no later than Wednesday, April 17th.

What other DMOs have said and why we’re excited to participate:
“As a writer attending Travel and Words, I not only built lasting relationships, I learned from the many workshop sessions on working with editors and pitching story ideas. And as an exhibitor for Visit Tillamook Coast, I was able to share our story and focus on nature-based travel with dozens of writers who quickly followed up with published articles.” — Nan Devlin, Tourism Director, Oregon’s Tillamook

Stephanie moved to Seattle from Spokane in 2012 to attend college at Seattle University. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in International Business and competed as a collegiate swimmer throughout her four years. She moved to Anacortes in August 2017 to further her career with Sherwin Williams. She joined the Sherwin Williams Company in 2015 at the University Village location in Seattle as an Intern. She moved to the Skagit Valley in 2016 to be the Assistant Manager at the Mount Vernon location. In October of 2017, she opened the Anacortes location as the Store Manager. Stephanie became an ambassador for the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce officially in February, 2018. She enjoys spending time with everyone at the chamber luncheons and ambassador meetings, and is looking forward to volunteering at the Spring Wine Festival and Waterfront Festival.

In her free time, Stephanie loves to swim, to explore the outdoors, and to bake with her younger sister, Brenna. One of her favorite activities is to run the loop at Washington Park.

As Stephanie dives further into Anacortes, she is excited to explore the town and learn more about the surrounding area. She is eager get more involved with the community throughout 2018.
2018 Festival Sponsors
The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank our 2018 Anacortes Spring Wine Festival Sponsors for making this festival bloom!

2018 Festival Sponsors

BOTTLE:
Peoples Bank

BOTA:

MAGNUM:

CASK:

BOTA:

Shred-a-Thon
Saturday, April 14th
9AM-1PM
Walgreens Parking Lot
$10 Minimum/$20 Suggested Per Box

Tour the facility and learn more about Skagit Habitat for Humanity.
Appetizers, beverages and prizes will be provided.

Thursday, April 12
5:30pm to 7pm
1022 Riverside Dr
Mount Vernon
Thank you to Skagit Land Trust for sponsoring our March Luncheon. Thank you also to Gere-A-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal and Fidalgo Bay Resort for hosting. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Bank of the Pacific
- Bayside Specialties
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Fidalgo Living – Best Version Media
- Lighthouse Memory Care
- Lincoln Theater
- NOAH, Northwest Organization for Animal Help Center
- Safeway
- Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
- Whidbey Coffee

Thank you ALT Insurance and RE/Max for hosting the March Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- ALT Insurance
- Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Bar
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Cat Nap Inn
- Classic Style & Company LLC
- Jolly Mon Charters
- Kelli Lang, RE/MAX Gateway
- Release Your Gorgeous Health
- SeaBear
- Vicki Stasch

2018 ambassadors

Chair: Dan Maul - Classic Style & Company
Stephanie Bayless - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
Gianna Cioffi - KAPS/KBRC Radio
Crystal Eddy - Skagit Bank
Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker - Chamber Member
Mindy Holland - Interpreting Technology
Shona Martin - Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
Richard Riddel - Edward Jones
Sarah Sanders - Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Meagan Schwab - People’s Bank
Veronica Spencer - Release Your Gorgeous Health
Carol Van Iterson - Bank of the Pacific
Brianna Vyrostek - Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc

new members

Circuit Solutions
Jeff Bear
(360) 588-4200
jbear@circuitsolutions.biz
1004 Commercial Ave #1068,
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.circuitolutions.biz
Telecommunications

Johnston Manor, The
Elizabeth Johnson
360-293-0030
thejohnsonmanorofanacortes@gmail.com
702 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
Home & Gift Store
2018 Waterfront Festival

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, 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-Carey, nrytand@anacortes.org, to discuss the best way to involve your business in this popular community event.

Save the Date!
2018 Poster Unveiling at Trident Seafood
Thursday May 3rd
5:30-7:00 pm

In March, we were fortunate enough to have two Anacortes Middle Schoolers in for job shadows. They were here at the perfect time as the committee was deciding on the image for the 2018 festival poster. Chloe Chambers and Macy Mong helped with this decision and can’t wait to see the final product. You will just have to join us at the unveiling ceremony to see it!
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org