chamber luncheon

Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen will speak about county projects and issues at the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on Thursday, September 13th at Fidalgo Bay Resort. Wesen will provide an update on the recent primary election, including how results of the EMS levy and Charter County proposal may affect local residents. Additional topics of discussion include plans to expand fiber optic networks in the county, information about the county’s work to create supportive housing for people struggling with substance use disorders, an update on the state of the Guemes Island Ferry, and a brief discussion of the Sept. 26 Solution to Addiction symposium.

The luncheon is sponsored by Shell’s Puget Sound Refinery. On Sunday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at Washington Park in Anacortes, Shell will host its 4th annual Fueling Education Fun Run 5K that benefits the Anacortes Schools Foundation (ASF). In just three years, the Fun Run has raised over $130,000 for STEM programs, early learning initiatives, preschool and college scholarships and social/emotional assessments. The event includes free food, music, kid-friendly games and prizes for all! The 5K kicks off at 10 a.m., and the little kids’ race (.3 mile) begins at 9:30 a.m. Also, the Anacortes school that sends the highest percentage of its students to the race will receive a $5K grant! Register online: https://www.databarevents.com/fuelingeducation.

Lunch will take place at Fidalgo Bay Resort, Thursday, September 13th, 11:30am-1:00pm. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $18 luncheon rate. Payment at the door will be $20. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!

business after hours

This month’s Business After Hours is co-hosted by Fidalgo Animal Medical Center and The Cat Nap Inn. Fidalgo Animal Medical Center was founded in 1978 by Dr. Robert Bjerk who after a few years had Dr. Bill Testerman join him as a partner. In 2005, Dr. Pauli Bezzola and Dr. Ian Marshall purchased the clinic, and continue to provide high quality veterinary care for the small animals of Anacortes and the surrounding areas. It was opened with the understanding that pets are part of the family and that they deserve the best medical care possible. They continue to work with that philosophy today.

Their clinic has multiple veterinarians and a fully trained support staff, including licensed veterinary technicians. They advocate quality medicine, client education, community support and the bond between humans and their pets. As of 2017 they are AAHA Accredited.

Nestled on six picturesque acres between Bellingham and Mount Vernon, Cat Nap Inn, Bed & Breakfast Exclusively for Cats, was custom designed and built with cats’ needs and preferences in mind. They are committed to cat’s health and safety and has chosen to remain small in order to offer exceptional service and unmatched personalized care for you and your kitty! Cat Nap Inn guests come from all over Northwest Washington. Come for a tour-once you meet the Cat Nap Inn staff and see their amazing facility, you will agree that Cat Nap Inn is Northwest Washington’s premiere cat-only boarding facility.

Find out more by attending this Business After Hours, Thursday, September 20th from 5:30-7:00pm at Fidalgo Animal Medical Center, 3303 Commercial Ave, for food, fun, and networking! Please RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
Election Season

Recently the chamber hosted a candidate’s forum for those running for Legislative District 40 Representative Position 1, which will be vacated by Rep. Kris Lytton at the end of the year. First of all, there are many thanks to Rep. Lytton for her steadfastness in focusing on fully funding education – she was laser-focused on that and the state benefitted from her work.

The recent candidate’s forum was filmed, and you can learn a lot about the two remaining candidates (Debra Lekanoff and Michael Petrish) by going to the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce YouTube (or Facebook) page and viewing it.

There are a lot of important races for the general election in November.

We will be holding another forum in October at the chamber lunch and perhaps even another one at city hall.

Voters need to take the time to really study the initiatives and the candidates. Is this carbon tax initiative what is best for Washington State, or would the legislative process be a better option for our businesses and citizens? Does Skagit County government need to change? And if so, what seven people in our district should represent our interests as the new charter is written?

We had the highest voter turnout for this primary than in the past five years, let’s keep that momentum going. Take the time to really dive into the issues and learn about the people who may end up representing you.

Here at the chamber of commerce, we will continue to advocate for business (commerce means business) and keep our ear to the ground to bring you information you may need to know!

- Stephanie Hamilton

Crystal Eddy

Born and raised in Skagit County, graduated B-EHS in 1997 and nominated class clown, for her bubbly and outgoing personality. In 1998 She started as a float teller for six months, quickly found that she enjoyed the people and quaint feel of Anacortes and took a permanent position here. Worked as a drive-up teller for two years prior to marrying Ben Eddy on February 5, 2000 and start a family. After a few years passed, the birth of her daughter Caytlin and her son Jacob, she missed her position and the relationships she had developed with staff and customers and returned to Skagit.

Opportunities for Ben took them to Sequim in 2004 for a designer/draftsman job at Westport Shipyards. In 2006 they were bound and determined to get back to Skagit Valley to establish a home. Val Closson had heard they had returned to the area and contacted Crystal and encouraged her to return to work. She quickly excelled to Assistant Manager and worked this position for 10 years, until April of 2018, when she advanced to AVP/Branch Manager of Skagit Bank, Anacortes Office, which is the position she currently holds.

While they have established their home in Bow, both Ben and Crystal work in Anacortes (Ben works for Transpac Marinas.) Other hobbies include watching her kids play sports, Sounder’s Soccer or Seahawk’s football, and she loves golfing, camping and boating with her family. She looks forward to meeting you at a chamber meeting, ribbon cutting or business after hours.
member profile

Cap Sante Marine

In 1979, Pat and Maureen Dickson needed a reliable boat yard to do repairs on their new boat, but they were not satisfied with the options available at the time so they devised a solution that was simple yet anything but ordinary. In addition to buying their boat that year they purchased a long-established, well-respected boat yard in the Cap Sante Boat Haven called Bryant Marine to complete the extensive retrofit they planned for their new boat. Once these repairs were completed, the new owners decided to commit the careers to extending the highest quality boat service possible to their customers just as they had demanded for their own boat. Nearly, 40 years later that tradition continues for boaters all around the Puget Sound. Their customers have come to know and trust Cap Sante Marine as a boat yard with dedicated staff, the highest technical skills and an unparalleled commitment to customer service excellence. Customers say that their technical expertise is secondary only to their commitment to treat them with a high level of courtesy and professionalism.

Their entire repair facility has moved one mile south to 30th Street across from the Fidalgo Marina. They maintain a full-service boat yard with two travel lifts to assist when boats need to be removed from the water for repair. Their technical team is completely mobile, so boats can be served on the water in any of the local marinas. Their well-stocked parts department includes major marine brands for diesel engines as well as outboards and many accessories such as batteries, hoses, belts, marine grade hardware, electrical components and starters, oils and lubricants. They are specialists in fiberglass repair ranging from catastrophic structural damage to simple gelcoat matching. They are proud to be designated a “Clean Boat Yard” by the Northwest Marine Trades Assn. for exceeding the most stringent environmental standards and adhering to the best safe practice standards in the marine industry - only a handful of boat yards have achieved this certification in the state. They offer brokerage services at their sales affiliate Nordic Yachts Northwest in the Cap Sante Marina and offer new boat sales through Gateway Yachts brands as well as an adventure craft from Rozema Boats, a nationally respected steel boat builder in Skagit County. Their slogan is “we do everything in boating” and hope you will test that and find out that its true.
This October marks the return of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce’s Bier on the Pier! The annual festival taps its kegs on October 5&6 at the Port of Anacortes Transit Center overlooking the Guemes Channel. Guests travel here from across Washington, Oregon and British Columbia to our island getaway for a weekend of great beer, cider, music and food. More than 2500 guests will sample the best from 30 northwest breweries and 10 cideries.

Ticket are on sale now! Friday only is $25, Saturday only is $35, 2 Day is $50 (a $10 savings). All tickets include admission, a commemorative tasting glass and six drink tickets. Additional drink tickets and pretzel necklaces are available for sale at the event. Designated driver tickets are available for those guests not drinking and making sure their friends get home safely! One day designated driver tickets are $7.50 each or a two day is $12.00. The DD tickets include admission and access to the entertainment and food trucks. Bottled water will be available to all guests, compliments of the Walk-In-Clinic at Island Hospital.

Tickets can be purchased online now through our website (anacortes.org/beer). You can also find us on Facebook to learn more about each brewery, cidery, food trucks, and soon the musicians who will be coming to entertain you!
Cheers to our Bier on the Pier Sponsors!

Key Sponsors:
- andeavor
- REISNER DISTRIBUTOR, INC.
- Puget Sound Refinery

Growler Sponsors:
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Tri County Recycling

Stake Sponsors:
- New Anacortes High School Tour

Former school principal Bob Knorr and current ASD Superintendent Dr. Mark Wenzel did a fantastic job showing the chamber staff and board members around the new high school facility! We had the opportunity to explore the classrooms, library, outdoor amphitheatre, and casual learning spaces.

Pictured here from left to right:
Bob Knorr, Mary LaFleur, Stephanie Hamilton, Amanda Hubik, Lori Maul, Gina Walsh, Heather Miller, Sandy Swartos, Dr. Mark Wenzel
member renewals

- A-1 Mobile Lock & Key
- Blue Otter Outfitters
- Caliber Home Loans, Anacortes Office
- Camwood Jewelers
- Cat Nap Inn
- Christ the King Community Church
- Costco Wholesale
- Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- Hotel Services Group - Hampton Inn/Candle
- Kuhn, Tom
- Lovric’s Sea-Craft, Inc.
- Marina Inn Hotel
- Northwest Educational Service District 18
- Outer Island Expeditions
- Pacific Biodiversity Institute
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Penguin Coffee LLC
- Petrish, Maria
- Pump Me Out, LLC
- Soria Real Estate
- Stasch, Vicki M.S.

2018 ambassadors

Chair: Dan Maul - Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing
Stephanie Bayless - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
Crystal Eddy - Skagit Bank
Megan Goldstein - Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
Mindy Holland - Interpreting Technology
Shona Martin - Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
Meagan Schwab - Peoples Bank
Carol Van Iterson - Bank of the Pacific

On August 15th Peoples Bank branches hid piggy banks throughout their communities. Each pig is filled with $30 and includes a message encouraging its new owner to share the wealth – “$15 for you…$15 to pay it forward.” Anyone who finds a pig is invited to share their ‘pay it forward story’ by tagging @peoplesbank on Instagram or submitting their story on our website using the form found here – www.peoplesbank.com/pigs. Those who share their story will be entered to win a GRAND PRIZE of $500 – $250 for the winner to keep and $250 to be donated to a charity of their choice.

There are 10 pigs hidden in Anacortes and clues will be given on the Peoples Bank Instagram page. As a special challenge to our chamber members, the first person that texts 360-303-5642, will be told the location of a pig. Happy pig hunting!
We’re excited to share our new Anacortes app with you!

Designed to be used while traveling, or when planning a trip to the island, we’ve taken some of the best information on our website and condensed it down into an easy-to-use, information rich, and visually stunning format. Looks great on both your mobile and tablet devices.

Experience Anacortes in a new way with this interactive visitor’s guide! The Anacortes app showcases incredible photography and video of some of the best ways to enjoy Fidalgo Island, plus interactive maps, itineraries, dining and lodging guides, festival information, weather, packing checklists, and so much more.

Learn more about kayaking, hiking, boating and yachting, the Washington State Ferry sailing schedule, and Deception Pass State Park. We’ll also give you an inside scoop about the outdoor, hand painted murals that tell the history of Fidalgo Island through the creativity of local artist Bill Mitchell.

Through the guidance of the Marketing and Promotions team, the chamber partnered with Cody Edwards, who has created tourism apps for other destinations like the North Idaho Travel Alliance, Socorro New Mexico, South Fork Colorado, Sisters Oregon, and more. The project was completed in just under six months, which is typical for an app that contains the amount of content that ours does.

The app has been mentioned multiple times on our various social media pages. As we get ready to print new materials like our brochures, and design ads for annual publications like the Cascade Loop, we will be integrating and promoting the app there as well.

Are you interested in helping promote our community app? Please contact Amanda Hubik (ahubik@anacortes.org) and she’ll be happy to work with you to provide graphics and content!
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org