**calendar**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Retail Trades Meeting</td>
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<td>Ambassador Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 11</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Chamber Luncheon</td>
<td>The Majestic Inn</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
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<td>Port of Anacortes Event Center</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 16</td>
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<td>City Council Chambers</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 18</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Business After Hours</td>
<td>CompuMatter</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 30</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>VIC Volunteer Meeting</td>
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**chamber luncheon**

Join us on April 11, 11:30am at the Majestic Inn for David Brook, That Gratitude Guy. Brook has been a speaker, coach, and best selling author for more than 25 years. He is a former Nordstrom store manager and has managed in the corporate world for more than 30 years. His published works include, *The Brooker's Daily Gratitude Journal* and *Happiness Starts with Gratitude.*

The chamber luncheon is sponsored by Banner Bank. Businesses and individuals count on Banner Bank to help them achieve their financial goals in Anacortes and throughout the west. Whether you’re building a home or growing a business, their bankers work hard to get to know you and understand your needs. They believe that’s essential to building trusting relationships and offering tailored solutions to help you succeed.

That’s been their approach for more than 125 years. Their focus on outstanding value is one reason Money Magazine named Banner the Best Bank in the Pacific Region in 2018. And their financial strength and stability is why Forbes named them one of the 100 Best Banks in America the past three years, and Bauer Financial has repeatedly assigned Banner its top 5-star rating. More important than accolades is earning your business by serving you well every day. They’re proud to earn your business and help you dream big and achieve more.

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!

**business after hours**

Join us Thursday, April 18th from 5:30-7:00pm for this month’s Business After Hours hosted by CompuMatter at 2002 Commercial Avenue.

CompuMatter, LLC has been a solid computer resource in Anacortes for 14 years and as their tagline implies “All Things Computer” means they are far more than just a “repair shop.”

Their goal has been to provide an easily accessible walk-in store front facility that addresses the computer needs of most residences and small to medium sized businesses.

A short list of the services they render to our community and beyond include - walk in repairs of all types (including Windows, Apple, tablets and even phones.), business and residential on-site requests (including server configuration, networking, wireless extensions and other common business needs), one-on-one training (including phones, tablets, Apple, Windows and Android) and finally website development and hosting (includes design, storyboarding, consulting, email, Wordpress and more).

That’s quite a resource for any large city and a real asset for a community the size of ours.

RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
message from the president

Bill Mitchell has left us.

As I sit here on the day of Bill’s passing, I think of the many projects he has undertaken, and his plans for the future. Things done, and left undone.

I was blessed to be one of the many people in this community with whom Bill would share his ideas and hopes to continually make Anacortes a great place to live and experience as a guest.

For the past few years he was focusing on Bobo the Gorilla, and envisioned Bobo jumping from one building to the next. We have a Bobo on the Visitor Information Center – he’s headed north up Commercial, my understanding is that there are more Bobos in his garage, ready to be mounted on buildings.

Bill was lately focusing on “Art in the Alleys” – an area that I want to move forward with and champion. It may just start with one or two alleys for this summer, but I think any movement on this would honor Bill and his vision.

When I spoke to Bill last in late January, he was reminding me that the 35th anniversary of the mural project is this May 3. We were to speak again about how to celebrate that day; I will leave it to his family to plan the way they want to celebrate his life, but I believe it is for all of us to celebrate his greatest public art undertaking.

I will miss Bill and his cart, the twinkle in his eye, the laughter ever present. I will miss what some would think were grandiose or odd ideas, but to him they were all doable. And so he did them. Most of them. Some are left undone, but are still doable…

Let’s all think about the best way to honor Anacortes’ greatest lover. Let’s finish the work together, as that is the only appropriate way to love him back.

It’s doable. Let’s get it done.

NOT ENOUGH ROOM
SHORTER COMMUTE

THE NEST IS EMPTY
BABY ON THE WAY

Doesn’t matter the reason, we are here to help.

Experience has no substitute. Building Small Business, 100 years and counting. Let us earn your business.

SARAH JURKOVICH, Branch Manager
360-293-5181 / sarah.jurkovich@wafd.com
1017 Commercial Avenue in Anacortes

@WAFDbank | NMLS#1410394

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GROWING COMMUNITY LEADERS

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is committed to growing leaders in our community. For the past decade, your chamber has provided at least one scholarship per year to Leadership Skagit – a program for current and emerging leaders in Skagit County.

In this nine-month program students develop a shared understanding of the richness, diversity and complexity that makes up Skagit County. The program further develops personal growth for these leaders. Students are formed into teams where they find a community partner and champion a project to make a lasting difference.

During their tenure students attend monthly challenge days where they learn first hand about the issues and challenges our community faces: from law and justices, to health and human services, to arts.

The Anacortes Chamber spearheads a challenge day – Economic Vitality. We held it last month and had the opportunity to explore many industries that provide the basis for a healthy community – jobs.


Much thanks to the planning committee: Kristen Keltz (LS graduate ’11), Therese Rudzis (LS graduate ’18) and Rick Star (LS graduate ’15).
volunteer profile

Nancy Wong

At her first chamber luncheon, a nice couple, Lee and Betty Dawes, approached Nancy to ask if she would be interested in volunteering at the Visitor’s Center. That was in March of 2015. Being fairly new to Anacortes the VIC volunteers shared their wealth of information in the area and she was set to work.

Nancy and husband Tom moved to Anacortes in 2014, drawn by the city’s beauty and its connections to marine cruising routes.

A native of Montana, Nancy grew up in Helena, graduated from the University of Montana and received a certificate from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota in physical therapy.

She began her career as a physical therapist in Tacoma, first at a hospital before eventually opening her own clinic.

Although retired, Nancy still finds time to fill in part time as a physical therapist at Island Hospital.

In addition to her duties at the Visitor Center, Nancy is helping with business surveys for the chamber’s Business Retention and Expansion project.

She also volunteers at the Anacortes Yacht Club. She works with Health Volunteers Overseas interviewing potential volunteer physical therapists for the country of St. Lucia.

Personal interests include boating, hiking, skiing and growing dahlias.

Little known personal facts: Nancy has climbed two mountains with elevations over 19,300 feet: Tanzania’s Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19, 341 (Africa’s tallest peak) and Ecuador’s Cotopaxi at 19,347 (one of the world’s highest volcanoes). On a trek to Mt. Everest base camp in Nepal, she climbed Kala Pattar. Closer to home, she has summited Mt. Rainier, Mt. Baker, Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood.

cascade loop

There’s nothing like hitting the open road: cranking up the tunes, feeling the wind in your hair and taking a big old gulp of fresh air. And there’s nothing like doing this on the Cascade Loop! From the salty sea air surrounding the Puget Sound, flowering fruit trees from Leavenworth, Wenatchee and Lake Chelan, acres of fresh cut hay and farmland in the Methow and Skagit Valleys, and miles upon miles of lush evergreen forest along the Stevens Pass Greenway and North Cascades National Park. This is the road trip of a lifetime.

An image of Mt. Erie was selected by the Board of Directors of the Cascade Loop to be featured on their guide’s cover. The guide has a worldwide distribution of 106,000 and will be available for digital download. Additionally, the guide is promoted via social media and an opt-in email newsletter with 27,000 subscribers.
A chamber project long in the making — a new welcome sign near the state ferry terminal — was dedicated March 26 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that honored all those who made the striking stainless-steel sculpture a reality.

“We’re thrilled we’ve been able to install a 20-foot sculpture that brands and announces Anacortes as a vibrant, artistic, forward-looking community with a marine heritage and recreational opportunities,” said Jack Darnton, chair of the chamber’s Beautification Committee. The committee first envisioned a new sign at the top of Ferry Terminal Road in 2012.

“Seven years later, we have a wonderful sign at the International Gateway,” Darnton said. “What was once an eyesore is now a beautiful introduction to our city.”

The chamber was the driving force behind the sign. Key partners from the beginning were the city, notably the parks department, and the Anacortes Arts Festival.

“We couldn’t have done it without them,” Darnton said. “As with any project of this magnitude, it takes everyone working together.

Among those recognized at the ceremony were Tim Garrison, who donated engineering services to ensure the sign’s integrity; Tim Fisher of Fisher Excavating, who donated his time to ready the site for the base; and Brad Breckenridge and Mike Nelson from Dakota Creek Industries, which donated a crane and operator for the installation.

Josh Baldwin and the team at Quantum Construction handled the concrete work, and Jason Kirkpatrick from Island Electric took charge of the lighting.

“Everyone’s been great to work with,” Darnton said. “The expertise that went into this project is amazing.”

The sculpture design came about through a juried process overseen by the Anacortes Arts Commission that began in 2013. A call to artists went out and the jury selected four finalists.

The winning design came from Kevin Pettelle, who operates Soul in Bronze Studio in Sultan. He has created commissioned pieces for the City of Oak Harbor, the Port of Everett and many other public and private entities.

The sculpture design was approved by the Anacortes City Council, the Arts Festival board and the chamber. Council members noted the sculpture’s design makes it attractive for people passing it in all directions — not just those coming up from the ferry dock.

“Kevin’s experience working with volunteers and his patience and understanding of the public commission process have been invaluable,” Darnton said. “Most importantly he is an outstanding artist who created a wonderful piece of art that will reflect our community as it welcomes visitors.”

The sculpture is named “Three Sails,” reflecting the use of negative space in the design.

Todd Carlson, WSDOT’s regional Planning and Engineering Services Manager was at the ribbon-cutting, along with Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere and city council, LTAC, Arts Festival and Arts Commission members.

Work on the sculpture project, like so much of what’s been accomplished to beautify the site, is a credit to the chamber and its partners, supporters and volunteers, said Stephanie Hamilton, chamber president.

“We are excited to be able to welcome guests to our island getaway in such a vibrant manner. As with any project, it takes the community to see it through to completion. I am grateful for Jack for his dogged determination in marshaling this forward through the many phases,” she said.
Anacortes Waterfront Festival

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Waterfront Festival and it’s 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 in 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.

Please contact Megan Murray, mmurray@anacortes.org, to discuss the best way to involve your business in this popular community event.

Presented by

Puget Sound Refinery

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Apothecary Spa
Bank of the Pacific
Heritage Bank
KAFE & KISM
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
TCC Verizon
Trident Seafoods

Bottles Sponsors
Anthony’s
Banner Bank
Pacific Party Canopies
People’s Bank
Reisner Distributing
SaviBank

Bota Sponsors
Fidalgo Bay Resort
Majestic Inn and Spa
Scott Milo Gallery
Tri-County Recycling

Save the Date!

2019 Poster Unveiling
Trident Seafood
Thursday, May 2nd 5:30-7pm
Many thanks to Mayor Laurie Gere for sharing the State of City with us and to Allen Workman, Managing Broker for John L. Scott Real Estate/Anacortes for sponsoring our March Chamber Luncheon. Special thanks to Bayside Specialties, Cascade Maritime Resources, Express Employment, Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing, John L. Scott Real Estate/Anacortes, NOAH, Scott Richards Insurance, VACASA, and Washington Federal for bringing giveaway prizes.

Guests at the March Chamber Luncheon, from left to right: Lori Maul, Fidalgo Artisan Yarn & Clothing; Dennis Richards, Island Hospital; Dan Maul, Fidalgo Artisan Yarn & Clothing; Stephanie Hamilton, Chamber President; and Laurie Gere, Mayor of Anacortes.

Thank you to Unique Romance Travel and Anacortes Construction Services for sponsoring our March Business After Hours.

Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize Anacortes Construction Services, Copia, Home Sweet Home Antiques, Jolly Mon Charters, Legal Shield, Lighthouse Park RV Park & Mini Storage, Pioneer Trails, Ron & Anne Smith, Scott Richards/Anacortes Marine Insurance, SeaBear, Total Home Services, Unique Romance Travel, and Washington Federal.

Guests at the March BAH, from left to right: Matt McKay, 48 North Management; Carla Shipper, Unique Romance Travel; Jim Anderson, Lighthouse Park RV Park & Mini Storage; Brian Johnson, Anacortes Construction Services; and Susie Jungemann, Unique Travel Romance.
SPOTLIGHT ON SKAGIT
April 10, 4-7 pm
Van Zyverden’s Bulb Warehouse

FREE Admission

Skagit County’s own innovation fair and business-to-business trade show

EDASC — Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County

April 10, 4-7 pm
Van Zyverden’s Bulb Warehouse

www.skagit.org
Exhibit/Sponsor: colleen@cceventplanning.org

new members

Jillian G. Salon
1816 Commercial Ave, Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 399-7281
Jillian George
jilian.g.salon@hotmail.com
Full service hair salon and facial waxing.

member renewals

• Anacortes American/Your Fidalgo
• Anacortes Food Co-Op
• Anacortes Lions Club
• Anacortes Property Management
• Anacortes Schools Foundation
• Benefit Team Insurance Services
• Berentson Public Relations
• Birch Equipment
• Business Support Services NW, LLC/Profound Impact
• Fidalgo DanceWorks
• Fidalgo Yacht Club
• Gary Jacobson, Attorney
• Highliner Charters
• Island Adventures, Inc.
• Kennelly Keys Music
• Marine Detail Specialists
• Mariners Rest
• McGregor Benefits
• Mert’s Taxi
• Micro AeroDynamics, Inc.
• MJB Properties, LLC
• Pearl Buttons, Inc.
• Petersen, Karen @ Re/Max Gateway
• Playhouse Dental
• PND Engineers, Inc.
• John Prosser CRB, CRS, Windermere Real Estate/Anacortes Properties
• Red Salon
• Rosario Skin Clinic
• San Juan Airlines
• San Juan Vineyards
• Seaside Autobody & Accessories
• Sierra Microproducts, Inc.
• Strandberg Construction, INC
• Sunrise Inn Villas and Suites
• Total Home Services
• Turk’s Head
• United Way of Skagit County
• UPS Store, The
• Vivi’s Kitchen
• Allen Workman, John L. Scott Real Estate
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL
April 13, 2019

VIP $125 | General $75 | Designated Driver (food only) $25
*Must be 21 or older with valid ID.

Magnum Sponsor:

30 Wineries | Food Pairings | On-site Wine Shop
Visit anacortes.org/wine for more details.