**chamber luncheon**

In the Mayor’s State of the City she will highlight accomplishments of 2018 and provide an overview of the city’s 2019 projects, goals and initiatives.

“This will be a time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year, such as the completion of the Maritime Strategic Plan; which aligns with Washington State’s Strategy for Maritime Economies. We are finalizing updates of the City’s Development Regulations and Land Use codes, which will allow us to implement the vision of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan,” says Mayor Gere. It also is the city’s forum to share plans for 2019. She will share the continued plan for city Municipal Broadband Fiber Project and other investments in the city’s infrastructure, quality of life initiatives and continued investment in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The luncheon is sponsored by Peoples Bank, and they have been proudly serving our local communities since 1921. It is their history, outstanding employees, and enduring core values that serve as the pillars of their bank. They unify the team to serve beyond what is expected to make a difference in the lives and businesses of their customers. Over the years they have learned that delivering on their promise of “A Higher Level of Service,” always starts and ends with people. They are proud members of the local communities in which they operate, and they are honored to serve your banking needs.

The lunch will take place on Thursday, February 14 at Anacortes City Council Chambers, Q Ave & 6th St at 11:30am. 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 at Evans Funeral Chapel and On-Site Crematory at 1105 32nd Street on Thursday, February 21st from 5:30-7:00pm for this month’s Business After Hours.

Evans Funeral Chapel has been an integral part of the community since it was founded by Willard Evans and his son Bob in 1967. Willard’s vision was to serve families with the utmost respect and dignity. That vision lives on today under the leadership of Bob and the caring and professional staff.

The team at Evans Funeral Chapel believe that the end of someone’s life is not just a sad occasion but it is also a time to celebrate the life of a precious loved one. The evening’s theme will be “DEATH by Chocolate!”

In addition to refreshments there will also be a special appearance by Banjo. He is a locally based therapy camel who works with Hospice NW to help those going through grief. It is sure to be a great evening and one Business After Hours you will not soon forget!

Find out more by attending our Business After Hours at Evans Funeral Chapel on Thursday, February 21 from 5:30-7:00pm for food, fun and excellent door prizes! Please RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
a message from the president

Last October Stephanie Hamilton took over as board chair of the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives, an association of chamber of commerce executives and staff professionals with membership of more than 100 chambers from across the state of Washington. The association was founded in 1955 to support chamber executives and staff by focusing on professional skills development.

“From the beginning of her WCCE leadership tenure, Stephanie has shown an enthusiasm for, and knowledge of what it takes to be an effective Chamber professional. She has brought this to her service as both a board member and now the WCCE Board Chair bringing first class professional development opportunities to chamber executives around the state. Stephanie has time and time again shown why both Anacortes and WCCE is fortunate to have her involvement and insight.” said Bob Green, CEO of WCCE.

“It is such an honor to be leading this group of professionals, and the greatest benefit is that Anacortes will be hosting the annual WCCE September 25-27 at the Swinomish Casino.”

“We have the opportunity to showcase our island getaway to destination influencers from across the state,” continued Hamilton. Plans are underway to have some of the conference events in town as well.

“I attended my first WCCE conference while Chairman of the Mount Vernon Chamber’s Board. Once joining the Anacortes Chamber staff, I knew that the professional development from WCCE was absolutely necessary for my success in the chamber. What I didn’t completely understand at the time was how my peers were as much a part of my success. I continue to learn so much from them!” stated Hamilton.

board profile

Therese Rudzis’s parents settled in Anacortes in the late 1970’s from Carmel, CA after her father retired from the military. Prior to the move her older sister suggested she write the Anacortes chamber, which she did and learned much about her future home. She is an Anacortes High School and Western Washington University graduate. During high school and college she worked at Whitney-Fidalgo Fish Cannery, McDonald’s, and InterWest Bank. She met her husband Steve (almost the boy next door) here, and started her career path, which led her to Seattle and southern California before returning Anacortes.

Her professional career was accounting (five years with Moss Adams) and business consulting. This included implementing accounting systems for small to mid-size companies. Some of the companies in her portfolio include University of Washington, Theo Chocolate, Toastmasters International, Vicon Motion (the magic behind Babe, Titanic, and other movies), as well as several well-known Seattle area companies with whom she still as active NDAs.

Therese joined the chamber of commerce when she moved back to town thirteen years ago, seeing it as a way to learn the local business community. She was a chamber Ambassador for 10 years and continues to work on the Spring Wine Event. In 2017 she was the recipient of the chamber’s scholarship for the Leadership Skagit program. She graduated with the class of 2018 and was excited to be accepted for the chamber board position this fall.

She loves adventure and her favorite was Black Water Rafting in New Zealand.
Shar has lived on the west coast most of her life – Oregon, British Columbia, Washington and California, with a few exceptions. She lived in Florida for two years and on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands for nine years. Upon returning to the U.S., she lived in Mount Vernon and was employed at United General Hospital in Sedro-Woolley in the Critical Care Units. One day while at work, she met a southern gentleman from Alabama. A 3,000 mile courtship ensued. This became an expensive venture, so he asked her to marry him. She said “yes” thinking that they would live in the South and he accepted her response planning that they would live in Washington! They found property on Fidalgo Island and built a home on the water over-looking Burrows Bay and Skyline.

They were active boaters and belonged to the Fidalgo Yacht Club. Although Shar was working at Island Hospital (14 years), they managed several trips back to the South and took up camping too.

While licensing a vehicle on day, Shar noticed the activity at the VIC; the ladies all seemed to be having a good time talking with visitors. She wondered how one could get involved.

Little Known Fun Fact about Shar: When Shar was a young nurse she was a member of the critical care team caring for the first adult heart transplant done in the U.S. at Stanford Medical Center. A TV special of the nurses from the O.R. and the ICE was featured on the Walter Chronkite Show in January 1968.

Megan Murray started in January as the new Events and Communications Coordinator. Her career has been mostly in the retail grocery world, running the events and community outreach programs for Whole Foods Market in Las Vegas and Metropolitan Market in Seattle.

Megan was born and raised in West Seattle and moved to Bellingham in 2018 to help a friend open a restaurant. Once the restaurant opened, she wanted to get back to her event planning roots, which lead her here! She is diving into the planning of the Spring Wine Festival and is excited to be a part of the Anacortes community.

When she is not here at the chamber, Megan enjoys taking her puppy Bilbo on long hikes, baking every recipe she sees on The Great British Bake Off, and throwing dinner parties for friends.
11th Annual Anacortes Spring Wine Festival

The nights may be long right now, but blooming tulips, sunshine, and the Spring Wine Festival are just around the corner on April 13th! This annual event brings over 750 visitors to Anacortes for a weekend of wine tasting, dining, and local shopping. 2018 was a tremendous success, and we learned that less can be more. The chamber board decided that we allow a third less attendees to ensure this is an amazing experience for all to enjoy this wonderful day at the pier.

Sponsorship of the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is a great way to promote your business to an engaged audience, connect with the community and reach new customers. Opportunities are available with online promotion as well as print and event exposure. We are also looking for items for our VIP swag bags, so if you are interested in promoting your business through that, just let us know. We would need 230 promotional items no later than March 15th. If you need ideas for this, just give us a call! Please contact Megan Murray at the chamber 360-293-7911, for further information.

It takes a village to make this fantastic event happen. Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Sandy Swartos at the chamber 360-293-7911.

Tickets on sale now!
VIP Admission $125, from 12:00pm – 5:00pm
General Admission $75, from 1:30pm-5:00pm
Tickets include etched tasting glass, unlimited wine tasting, food bites, plus chocolate & cheese tastings.
anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival
Multi-Chamber After Hours

Making new connections and building new relationships!

BYK SEDRON TECHNOLOGIES

Join us for food, beverages, and to tour BYK Construction and Sedron Technologies LLC’s adjacent offices. See what exciting things are part of the rapidly changing Sedro-Woolley business community.

Thursday, February 14
4:30pm to 6pm
133 W State Street
Sedro-Woolley

Feb 7th 2019
5th Annual Dine & Shop
To End Homelessness

Participating Restaurants Include:
Adrift | A’Town | Brown Lantern | Calico Cupboard | Coconut Kenny’s Dad’s Diner | Fridas | Gere-a-Deli | Johnny Picassos | The Majestic Papa Murphy’s | Penguin Coffee | Pizza Factory | Rockfish Grill Secret Cove | Store Grocery | Union Tavern | Vagabond Station

Participating Retailers Include:
Alley Cat & Marine Hardware | Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Fidalgo Yarn | The Good Stuff | The Johnson Manor Lil’ Tugs | The Red Door | Tides of Anacortes | Watermark Book Co.

Visit www.AnacortesFamily.org for a complete list of participating establishments!

Raffle!
BUY TICKETS BY EMAILING: Heather@AnacortesFamily.org $20/each or 7 for $100

Early Bird Drawing (February 6th): One Night Stay & Breakfast for Two at the Majestic Inn & Spa

Grand Prize: Pendant necklace circa 1910; bezel set, round cut natural ruby surrounded by rose-cut diamonds & seed pearls set in platinum-topped 18K gold from Isadoras Jewelry. Value: $6,100

2nd Prize: Misted Poppies 24”x36” painting by Jennifer Bowman. Value: $1,200

3rd Prize: Anacortes Shopping Spree! Value: $500

A Fundraiser Benefiting: The Anacortes Family Center

Guests at the January Business After Hours at Scott Richards/Anacortes Marine Insurance: From left to right, Dan Maul-Fidalgo Artisan Yark and Clothing, Bill Leduc-Kiwanis, Scot Buchanan-Scott Richards, John Bruhmer-Total Home Services, Jay Lepore-CompuMatter, Carla Schipper-Unique Romance Travel.
Thank you to Anacortes School District Foundation for sponsoring our January Luncheon, to Fidalgo Bay Resort for hosting and to Gere-a-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for their giveaway prizes.

- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Express Employment Professionals
- Northwest Organization for Animal Help Center (NOAH)
- Peoples Bank
- Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
- Washington Federal

Thank you to Scott Richards/Anacortes Marine Insurance for sponsoring our December Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Alley Cat Vintage & Décor
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bubba Sudz Car Wash and Detail
- Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing
- John L. Scott Real Estate Anacortes
- Lighthouse Park R.V. & Mini Storage
- Marine Supply & Hardware
- Natural Way Chiropractic
- Portalis LLC
- Scott Richards/Anacortes Marine Insurance
- SeaBear
- Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
- Washington Federal

Ribbon Cutting at new business Whole Life Wellness. Congratulations Jennifer Eichorn and team.
member renewals

- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Community Theatre
- Anacortes Inn
- Anacortes Kayak Tours
- Anacortes Senior Activity Center
- Bayside Dental
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
- Charlie & Ute Collins DDS
- Chemtrade Solutions LLC
- Chicago Title Company
- City of Anacortes
- Clark, Duane
- CPI Plumbing & Heating
- Dakota Creek Industries
- Edward Jones - Jeffery Pleet
- Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
- Gentry House
- Gere-a-Deli
- Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Island Hospital
- Island Transport Ferry Service, Inc.
- Jean Groesbeck & Assoc. LLC
- Judd & Black
- KeyBank
- Les Schwab Tire Center
- Marina Inn Hotel
- Natural Way Chiropractic
- Portalis LLC
- Reisner Distributor Inc
- Richardson, Cynthia
- RIS Insurance
- Scott Milo at the Framemaker
- Scott Richards/Anacortes Marine Insurance
- SeaBear
- Sheely’s Floral & Gifts
- SignDog NW
- Skagit Bank
- Smith, Ron & Anne
- SonHouse
- Tracys Furniture
- U.S. Bank
- Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
- Washington Federal
- Windermere Real Estate

2018 Keep the Cheer Here Wrap-up

We would like to thank our Fidalgo Island businesses, and shoppers from all across the county, for participating in the fifth year of Keep the Cheer Here. 2018 saw an increase of cards being turned in, and we estimate that about $335,000 was spent through this local shopping campaign.

In working to keep the program fresh, we changed up the format of the grand prize. Each business participated by giving both a gift and cash, and the cash was used to purchase gift cards through the choice of the two winners. One chose a $250 gift card to Ace Hardware, and the other chose two $125 gift cards to both Ace Hardware and Island Styles.

We look forward to growing the program in 2019, and look forward to any comments or suggestions that the community may have. Stayed tuned for future shop local campaigns, like the Dine & Shop to End Homelessness, happening on February 7th!
chamber officers

Executive Board

CHAIRMAN
Dennis Richards  Island Hospital

VICE CHAIRMAN
Gina Walsh  Peoples Bank

TREASURER
Allen Workman  John L Scott

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Cory Ertel  Shell Puget Sound Refinery

PAST CHAIRMAN
Mary LaFleur  ALT Insurance

Board of Directors

Kristi Gabrielse  Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere  City of Anacortes
Matt Gill  Marathon
Barry Harter  Central Payment Corporation
Diana Jordan-New  Bank of the Pacific
Lori Maul  Fidalgo Artisan Yarn & Clothing
Reid Meyers  Law Office of Reid E Meyers
Jeff Pleet  Edward Jones
Leslie Powell  Lighthouse Memory Care
Therese Rudzis  Skyline Moorage Sales
Rick Star  Anacortes Brewery/Rockfish Grill
Chris Terrell  How It Works
Teresa Wainman  San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill
Mark Wenzel  Anacortes School District
Dan Worra  Port of Anacortes

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton  President
Sandy Swartos  Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik  Marketing & Promotions Director
Heather Miller  Events & Communications Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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The Boats Are Back

Boat & Yacht Show MAY 16-19 CAP SANTE MARINA ANACORTES, WA

AnacortesBoatAndYachtShow.com

Coast in. Hang out.™