calendar

- **Tuesday, March 5**
  - 8:30am
  - Retail Trades Meeting
    - Chamber Office
- **Tuesday, March 5**
  - 10:00am
  - Marine Trades Division Meeting
    - Chamber Office
- **Thursday, March 7**
  - 11:45am
  - Ambassador Meeting
    - Chamber Office
- **Thursday, March 14**
  - 11:30am
  - Chamber Luncheon - State of the City
    - City Council Chambers
- **Friday, March 15**
  - 10:30am
  - Finance/Executive Meeting
    - Chamber Office
- **Tuesday, March 19**
  - 3:30pm
  - Chamber Board Meeting
    - City Council Chambers
- **Thursday, March 21**
  - 5:30pm
  - Business After Hours
    - Co-hosted by Unique Travel Romance and Anacortes Construction Services
    - Seafarer Memorial Building
- **Tuesday, March 26**
  - 9:00am
  - VIC Volunteer Meeting
    - Chamber Office

chamber luncheon

Join us on March 14th as Mayor Laurie Gere highlights accomplishments of 2018 and provides an overview of the city’s 2019 projects, goals and initiatives. This meeting also serves as the city’s forum to share plans for 2019 including 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 Chamber Luncheon is sponsored by Allen Workman. He is a managing broker at John L Scott Real Estate and has been a broker since 2005. His focus is on Residential, Commercial and Investment properties. Allen and his team are expert at analysis, promotion, marketing and negotiation. He is a full-time broker and always puts his clients first.

The lunch will take place on Thursday, March 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 Seafarer Memorial Building at 601 Seafarers Way on Thursday, March 21st from 5:30-7:00pm for this month’s Business After Hours sponsored by Unique Travel Romance and Anacortes Construction Services. Bring your putting skills for a chance to win a three-night stay at Nobu Hotel in Los Cabos (airfare not included)!

Unique Romance travel has been helping their clients plan destination wedding, honeymoons, luxury escapes, family travel and multi-generational trips for 13 years. They are a full-service travel agency, that takes pride in “not charging a fee for their services.” This year Unique Romance Travel has started a new division called Unique Adventure Vacations. This division is for all of the clients that want something different, from Iceland to the Africa Safaris, and/or ocean and river cruising. They are your local, boutique, travel agency, that is here to help take the stress and uncertainly out of your travel planning.

Anacortes Construction Services, one of Skagit County’s most experienced and respected custom-building firms with over 32 years of construction experience. Their broad base of experience ranges from renovating 100-year old homes to building large commercial facilities and retail stores. Along the way they’ve built many single-family custom homes and successfully completed many large remodel projects. There is virtually nothing in the construction industry that they haven’t done. They offer major league experience and small-town service!

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

Bright outlook for the Anacortes Chamber

It’s February and most of us have hopes of varying degrees (yeah, it’s a pun and I’m not sorry):

• Skiers are hoping for a long winter
• Tulip Festival staff hope the tulips bloom, when they’re supposed to
• Golfers are hoping for long summer (starting now!)
• Boaters are hoping for good weather and calm seas

Speaking of boaters, the Anacortes Chamber and Northwest Marine Trades Association – the outstanding organization that manages the Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show – are hoping for great weather and an even better turnout than last year’s very successful event. This year’s show will be held May 16-19 at the Port of Anacortes. Last year 5,214 people attended the show that had 103 exhibitors. We expect the 2019 show to be bigger and better. Visit www.anacortesboatandyachtshow.com for more information and to sign up for the event newsletter.

Speaking of events, the 2019 Spring Wine Festival is filling up fast. Held on Saturday, April 13, at the Port of Anacortes Transit Shed, this year’s event will be far less crowded than in years passed. The chamber staff formed a committee last year to improve what has been a successful event to solve the problem of a crowded venue. The committee added VIP tickets while lowering the available number of general admission. We expect that this event – should it sell out as it traditionally does – will have a limit of 720 attendees rather than the 1,190 we had last year. Visit the events section at www.anacortes.org for more information, buy tickets or volunteer.

Now, back to what I hope for. I hope everyone who has licensing needs will do so at the Anacortes Licensing Department, 1005 Commercial Ave., in the same building as the Visitor Information Center and Anacortes Chamber. Our new, spacious facility is comfortable and convenient and a great improvement over the previous smaller space. For some licensing needs, you can complete the transaction online and either have your tabs mailed the next day, or come by to pick them up without waiting.

Thank you for your membership and support of our vibrant business community. Please take advantage of the many benefits of membership and get together with your local business peers.

Dennis Richards, Island Hospital

welcome new staff

In February we welcomed Christy Lyman to the staff as our new Marketing & Promotions Coordinator. She has a background of more than 12 years in nonprofit marketing and fund development. She studied photography and communication at Boise State University and is an Adobe Certified Associate.

She moved to the Skagit Valley in 2009 to work with the Museum of Northwest where she spent eight years leading their regional marketing strategies. Her most recent work includes the Island Hospital Foundation where she focused on fundraising, events, and designing marketing materials.

When not at work she enjoys making soap and candles, attending art openings and spending time with her family.
vic volunteer profile

John Firlotte bought his Anacortes home (still has another home in Seattle) in 1979. He travels between homes but tries to spend most of his time in Anacortes.

John’s early roots were in State of Maine from a family of nine brothers and sisters. He had some early farm and animal experiences. John left Maine at seventeen arriving at Ft Lewis (U.S. Army). Upon leaving the Army he went to Everett Junior College where he met his wife of 53 years (Marilyn). John graduated from Seattle University in 1967 with degree in marketing and finance.

Job experiences (in sales and management) brought John all around the United States. He has lived in four states. Most of John’s experiences were in selling of safety products and helping companies comply with OSHA and WISHA. The majority of his time was spent educating workers and companies to comply with safety rules. This involved visiting mines (way down), walking on steel beams (once up to the 75th floor) while under construction and visiting all Boeing plants including rocket launches.

Before 1979, visits to Anacortes made him feel like home (early Maine experiences). The water, islands and folks were always positive.

Becoming a VIC volunteer is a fun and rewarding experience. John enjoys bragging about Anacortes and relating to visitors throughout the US, Canada and other countries. He also loves sharing his experiences with fellow volunteers, especially if they listen to John’s jokes.

John also likes walking guests through town when they arrive here on cruise ship visits.

His favorite feedback received from guests is how they feel about Anacortes’ friendliness and the how clean the city is. John and his wife Marilyn also volunteer to work on other Anacortes events like Spring Wine Festival and Bier on the Pier.

He also enjoys sharing time with his two children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.
upcoming events

ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 13th

Let your taste buds lead the way on this wine tasting and culinary adventure at the historic Port of Anacortes Event Center on April 13th, from 1:30-5pm!

Enjoy the beauty of Fidalgo Island while sampling a full breadth of wines from the Pacific Northwest ranging from full-bodied sweet and savory cabernets to light, dry, and crisp pinot grigios.

Now in its 11th year, the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is a one-day event that brings together more than 30 Washington State wineries including newcomers Eagle Haven Winery, Glacier View Cellars, Hurricane Hills Winery, and Skagit Crest Vineyard and Winery. A delectable selection of gourmet food bites provided by local restaurants and vendors make perfect pairings and don’t forget to indulge in local cheeses, chocolates, and even have a biscotti or two. The on-site wine shop provides an opportunity to take some of these artfully prepared wines home.

Tickets are on sale now! The VIP experience is $125 and includes early admittance (beginning at 12pm) guaranteeing you a more intimate experience with the winemakers, a swag bag, and special lounge area. General Admission is $75 with entry starting at 1:30pm. Designated Driver tickets are also available for $25. The festival ends at 5pm.

For a full list of wineries, participating food vendors, and to purchase tickets, visit anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival/

Want to volunteer? We still have a few spots left! Sign up using the link above and receive a free ticket to attend Bier on the Pier in October.

Thank you so much to our sponsors that make the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival possible:

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

Bottle 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
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

Save the Date!

2019 Poster Unveiling
Trident Seafood
Thursday, May 2nd 5:30-7pm
ambassadors

Mindy Holland, Chair
Interpreting Technology

Brandon Carter
Robert W Baird

Crystal Eddy
Skagit Bank, a division of Banner Bank

Barry Harter
Central Payment Corporation

Shona Martin
Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC

Dan Maul
Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing

Caren McKay
John L. Scott Real Estate/Anacortes

Jessica Nguyen
Peoples Bank

Meagan Schwab
Peoples Bank

Carol Van Iterson
Bank of the Pacific

Become an Ambassador

If you’re interested in becoming an ambassador and would like to learn more about the Ambassador’s club contact Sandy Swartos at (360) 293-7911 or sswartos@anacortes.org

thanks . . .

Thank you to Evans Funeral Chapel & On-Site Crematory for sponsoring our February Business After Hours, Death by Chocolate.

Thanks also to Ace Hardware and Release Your Gorgeous Health for bringing giveaway prizes.

Guests at the February Business After Hours, from left to right: Evelynn Williams, Chamber Member; Joe Waham, Evans Funeral Chapel & On-Site Crematory; Linda Lewis, Beach Castle Sweets; Carol Van Iterson, Bank of the Pacific; and Darannie Waham.

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

JAMIE’S SIGNS
12549 Christianson Rd
Wednesday, April 3rd at 4:00pm

Celebrating 50 years

ANACORTES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
member renewals

- Ace Hardware
- Alice Bohnker Insurance Services, LLC
- Anacortes Automotive
- Anacortes Construction Services LLC
- Anacortes Physical Therapy
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
- Heritage Bank
- Lighthouse Park R.V. Park & Mini Storage
- Lopez Islander Bay Resort & Marina
- Stephen McInerney
- Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor and Home
- North Sound Pest Solutions
- NW Cleaners
- Pacific Design Screen Printing
- Pacific Marine Center
- Skagit Cycle
- Skagit Valley Family YMCA
- The Salvation Army
- The Store
- Tom Decker & Nancy Wong

new members

- Bill’s Lock & Key
  *Bill’s Lock & Key is a mobile lock smith located in Anacortes, serving the greater Skagit Valley area.*

- Karralga Marine & Associates
  *Sales and installation of sideshift bow and stern thrusters.*

- Vacasa
  *We support great people with industry-leading technology to care for guests and maximize financial returns for vacation homeowners around the world.*

Anacortes Rotary 9th Annual Community Benefit Dinner

100% of Ticket Sales Go To These Local Beneficiaries:
- Anacortes Public Library
- Anacortes Middle School Students
- Anacortes Waterfront Alliance
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Island View Elementary School Students
  *for special grant-funded projects*

*Enjoy a carefully selected dinner, wine, & dessert donated by Anthony’s Restaurant*

**Buy Your Tickets:**
[www.rotarydinneratanthonys.com](http://www.rotarydinneratanthonys.com)

*$115 each*

**Wednesday March 20, 2019**
Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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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.