calendar

Thursday, May 2
  11:45am
  Ambassador Meeting
  Chamber Office

Thursday, May 2
  5:30pm
  Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling
  Trident Seafoods

Tuesday, May 7
  8:30am
  Retail Trades Meeting
  Chamber Office

Tuesday, May 7
  10:00am
  Marine Trades Meeting
  Chamber Office

Wednesday, May 8
  11:30am
  Ribbon Cutting
  Aspire Wellness

Thursday, May 9
  11:30am
  Chamber Luncheon
  Majestic Inn

Friday, May 17
  10:30am
  Finance/Executive Meeting
  Chamber Office

Tuesday, May 21
  3:30pm
  Chamber Board Meeting
  Council Chambers

Tuesday, May 28
  9:00am
  VIC Volunteer Meeting
  Chamber Office

poster unveiling

Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling
Trident Seafoods, May 2nd, 5:30-7:00pm

chamber luncheon

Join us May 9, 11:30am at the Majestic Inn for guest speaker, Steph Williamson, who will be focusing on deeper and more meaningful goal setting. She is a life and leadership coach; this means she starts powerful conversations to get you out of your comfort zone and into the life and business that you really want. Her passion and skills are there to help you rediscover the happiness that has been lost in the hustle. Create a sustainable business and team that allows you to achieve massive results without leaving you exhausted.

This month’s chamber luncheon is sponsored by Chinook Enterprises, a social enterprise — a mission-driven nonprofit designed to operate as a business. Their mission is simple: supporting full participation in community life for people with disabilities or other barriers. Chinook was founded on the belief that the need to be connected with one’s community and to be a responsible citizen is at the core of each person. Each of us can relate to the importance of having a place to contribute, to feel valued, and for most of us that means a job. For many people with disabilities, finding employment is challenging, but with help and support barriers can be minimized and dreams realized.

Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $18 luncheon rate. Payment at the door is $20. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome.
Across the country there is a need for workforce development, and chambers of commerce are realizing their ties to the business community allow them to be a nexus of these connections.

When the Skagit STEM Network came and asked us to partner it was a natural fit. It was exciting to encourage mentors to come out and share their passion with these 7th graders. The students used their science periods to meet with up to five mentors in a round robin fashion.

This is a critical juncture in the development of students and giving them hands-on “tastes” of possible careers may help them aspire in ways they had not expected.

We had mentors from Island Hospital, Materials Testing Center, the Marine Technology Center, EDCO, a private engineer, a neuropathologist, and Integra – I want to thank the 16 mentors for their time – and for leaning into the lives of our youth.

I look forward to setting up next years’ STEM Like Me! session and getting more local mentors involved.

-Stephanie Hamilton

On March 31st, we celebrated the opening day of the international ferry run with our annual trek to our Sister City, beautiful Sidney by the Sea.

Our unique relationship with Sidney began more than 20 years ago when our two cities joined forces to successfully resist efforts to close the WA State Ferries’ Anacortes/Sidney run. Since then our two cities have enjoyed sharing holidays, parades, and art in many forms.
member profile

Skagit Cycle Center

Skagit Cycle Center is the premier retailer for bicycles and cycling accessories in the Skagit Valley—and beyond! Opened as Skagit Pedal Sports in May of 1998, the business expanded and with the new millennium came our new name—Skagit Cycle Center. The Burlington store was so successful they added new stores in Anacortes and Oak Harbor, which has made it easier to serve thier friends on the islands. They have many things in common with their customers. But most important is that they just love bikes! They welcome friendly chats with fellow riders who want advice on local rides, how to improve technique off-road or on, or where to get a good sandwich to stick in your seat-bag before you head out for the day’s ride.

Gary and Bernie Santiago have devoted themselves to bringing the best in biking to Skagit County. Avid bicyclists themselves, they have fulfilled their dream of owning a great bicycle store. Gary has been working with bicycles since he was a kid, saving up for his first good bike and going on century rides when he was just a teenager. He started building and repairing bikes in his back yard, and has been in the cycling industry since the early eighties. After over a decade as a licensed racer and a few years working for a major bicycle manufacturer, he wanted to own his own store. Bernie brought a background in retail management and a love of cycling to the partnership and for over 20 years the Santiago’s have been growing their business by serving the needs of the cycling community in Anacortes, Skagit County, Island County and beyond.

Pay for play and free hands-on children’s activities include building wooden sail boats with Fidalgo Island Rotary, games, and more. The Channel of Discovery has booths that range from model boats to learning about our waterfront, environment, and forest land wildlife.

A great variety of food vendors offer everything from pulled pork sandwiches, cotton candy and hotdogs, to Gyros, Mexican tamales, and more! Relax in the beer garden with live music and sea shanties.

Festival hours: Saturday, June 1, 10am to 6:00pm and Sunday, June 2, 10am to 5pm.

Find us on the grounds of the beautiful Cap Sante Marina at 1019 Q Avenue in Anacortes, WA.

Presented by

Puget Sound Refinery
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upcoming events continued

A Sherpa’s Guide to Local Politics

Jason Easton, your Sherpa for the evening, has served as a coach and confidant for a number of successful political leaders in our region for more than 15 years.

As a former candidate himself, he will speak to the challenges, the thrills, and the pain of running for office. He’ll share practical advice on how to win if you lose and how not to lose when you win.

Special guests include: Mayor Laurie Gere; City Councilmen Matt Miller and Ryan Walters; and Port of Anacortes Commissioner Kathy Pittis

Have questions? Call (360) 293-7911.

The Annual Community Celebration

Anacortes Waterfront Festival

KICK-OFF DINNER

May 31st 2019 at 6pm

$55 Single Ticket $100 Per Couple $375 Table of 8

Tickets available at www.portofanacortes.com or by calling 360-293-3134

Hors d’oeuvres & Drinks on the Pier
Community Presentations • Music

Port Transit Shed Event Center • 100 Commercial Avenue Anacortes • 360-293-3134
We are grateful to the more than 1,000 people who came together to make this event possible including the sponsors, wineries, caterers, vendors, and volunteers - and of course our amazing attendees that traveled from all over to be here.

Special thanks to our Magnum Sponsor

Photo Credit: Stearns Photography.

“I thought it was a great event, I will definitely try out some of the local food next time I stay in Anacortes!”

“...we were smiling from the minute we entered the venue!”
ambassadors

Mindy Holland, Chair
Interpreting Technology

Brandon Carter
Robert W Baird

Crystal Eddy
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

Lacee Root
Vacasa

Meagan Schwab
Peoples Bank

Carol Van Iterson
Bank of the Pacific

Learn more about the Ambassador’s Club!

Contact Sandy Swartos at sswartos@anacortes.org or call (360) 293-7911 to hear all about the great things you can do as an ambassador for our business community.

april events & thanks

Many thanks to That Grattitude Guy for his enlightening presentation and to Banner Bank for sponsoring our April Chamber Luncheon. Special thanks to Academy Mortgage Corporation, Banner Bank, Express Employment Professionals, Louis Auto Glass, Inc., and Pioneer Trails for bringing giveaway prizes.

Guests at the April chamber luncheon, from left to right: Cathy Koskonrica and Molly McIntosh

Thank you to CompuMatter for sponsoring our April Business After Hours. We also appreciate the generosity of the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize: Ace Hardware of Anacortes, Bank of the Pacific, Steve Wilhoit, CompuMatter, Pioneer Trails, and Seabear.

Guests at the April BAH, from left to right: Peggy Flynn and Lara Denning.

Folks gathered together on April 3rd to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Jamie’s Signs.
Member Renewals

- Airporter Shuttle / Bellair Charters
- Anacortes Econo-Wash
- Anacortes Insurance Services / Allstate
- Anacortes Yacht Charters
- Apothecary Spa, The
- Bert Clay, Broker, John L. Scott - Anacortes
- Bill’s Lock & Key
- Cap Sante Yachts
- Cascade Maritime Resources, LLC
- Coconut Kenny’s
- Colleen Craig, Windermere Real Estate
- Creative Cabinets
- Farmers Insurance - Curtis Payne Agency
- Fidalgo Country Inn
- Fidalgo Island Heath Center
- Fidalgo Living - Best Version Media
- Flooring Connections Int., Inc.
- Gary Thramer, AAMS, Edward Jones
- Irishman Enterprises
- Irving Construction Corporation ICC
- Island Express Charters, Inc.
- Island Hospital Foundation
- Jamie’s Signs, LLC
- Kiwanis Sunrisers
- Marathon Petroleum

Productive Dentist Academy
San Juan Lanes/Bar & Grill
Seattle Yachts
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Soroptimist International of Anacortes
Susie’s Moped Rentals, Inc.
Troy Kunz, Edward Jones
Umpqua Bank
Waste Management of Skagit County
Whistle Veterinary Clinic

New Member Spotlight

Mocean Yacht Charters
Ashley Cote
3934 194th Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98512
(206) 450-6958
mocceanyc@gmail.com

At Mocean we make boat enjoyment easy. We provide charter rentals to those that wish to explore the water beyond Anacortes, and we offer boat management for those who wish to charter their boats out.

Membership Benefits

Membership with the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce comes with many benefits including:
- Marketing opportunities
- Networking
- Business referrals
- Landing page on anacortes.org
- Listing in the annual membership directory
- Publicity and exposure
- Visitor information center
- A powerful voice with local government
- Economic development
- Festival booth discounts
- Access to our bulk mail permit
- Use of the conference room
- Education and professional development opportunities
- Community support
- Tourism marketing
- Community partnerships

And so much more! Call (360) 293-7911 to learn more about any of the benefits listed above.

Farewell Megan Murray

We are saying goodbye to our Events and Communications Coordinator, Megan Murray, as she has moved on to The Non-GMO Project as the Business Development Manager. She will be working with food manufacturers, farmers, and small local vendors to ensure that they are using all non-gmo ingredients. Look for the Non-GMO Project label, a butterfly, on your food and know that Megan was a part of it!

In her short time here, Megan brought amazing organization, an ability to engage with people, and a ton of laughter. She will be missed and we wish her the best of luck in her new adventure!
Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org