The 58th Anacortes Arts Festival is right around the corner and you don’t want to miss the amazing art, music and food!

There is so much to experience in these three days, it might take the whole festival to enjoy it all. The Festival even has gift certificates available so you can share the shopping for art fun with family and friends!

A checklist of things not to miss, during Festival Weekend:

• With 250 artisan booths, at least 50 of them new to our festival, you are certain to find that special treasure!

• Three stages of entertainment will feature more than 40 entertainers, including Rock, Country, Jazz, Americana and World Music. On Friday night, enjoy Mama Dirty Skirt, John Van Deusen and then the Steeley Dan Tribute Band – Nearly Dan. Saturday features Birch Perera & the Gin Joints, Chris Eger, Knut Bell & the Blue Collars, Geoffrey Castle and Chance McKinney. On Sunday, hear Herding Kats Nonet, Ebb Slack & Flood and Bellingham favorite, Kuinka.

• In addition to fabulous festival food in the Food Court area, make sure you look for something new in our Food Truck Alley, newly moved to 8th Street. BBQ, Wood-fired pizza, Mexican food and the Anthony’s Food Truck will all be there to delight you.

• If you missed the Fine Art Opening on July 27, luckily there is lots of time to experience Arts at the Port. There are small docent tours at noon on July 30 and August 1. And, the show is open late during the August Art Walk on Friday, August 2. The Juried Show, curated by Juror Joanna Sikes from MoNA, features more than 200 pieces of art. And, the Allen Family Focus Gallery welcomes three talented artists – Anacortes’ own Cathy Schoenberg, Jill Nordfors and Charissa Brock.

• In addition to the juried show and the Allen Family Focus Gallery, make sure you take time with two very special installations – Voices of the Children and the Regeneration Project, “Say Their Names.” The Voices of the Children installation features ceramic butterflies that combine poetry, writing, film and clay in a project for teenage girls from Skagit County. The Regeneration Project is an artist response to the phenomenon of mass shootings in America. Thirty artists have created more than 1000 rocks, each displaying the name, event, date and age of an...
America. The rocks are being assembled into a large Cairn installation. Also take a few minutes to watch an accompanying video that incorporates writing from students and adults, who have been impacted by gun violence.

• In the Working Studios, near Cortland, you will see woodworking, blacksmithing, chalk art, graffiti artists, basket weaving, the Samish carvers, stone carving, Al Currier painting a mural for the Tommy Thompson Trail and two more additions to Pianocortes being designed.

• Maryhill Winery is back as a partner in the Reunion Wine Bar, make sure to stop by for a glass or a bottle while you listen to the music at the Jazz Stage.

• The streets will be filled with runners in the pre-festival hours on Saturday, August 2 for the 14th Annual Art Dash. There is still time to register to run the 5K, 10K or Half Marathon. The Half Marathon medals are pretty great this year — might be worth a 13 mile effort! Proceeds from the Art Dash fund Public Art in Anacortes, including the soon-to-be installed piece in the new soon-to-be revealed Pocket Park by the Post Office.

There is so much that happens on the streets of Downtown Anacortes this one weekend a year. Make your plans now so you don’t miss any of it!

Local tip: If you are looking for quieter crowds, head downtown Friday morning or Sunday afternoon.

More information at AnacortesArtsFestival.com

After almost five years of diligence and hard work, the Anacortes City Council approved new development regulations and zoning map for Anacortes. The City Planning Department, City Council along with MAKERS Architecture & Urban Design, LLP have finalized documents that will help formulate what Anacortes will look like for the next 20 plus years.

These new codes will effect both residential and commercial development as well as encouraging, among other items affordable housing, green walls and roofs, wider sidewalks, and murals, mosaics and sculptures that are part of the public landscape. Congratulations to all involved.

Each summer the volunteers from the Anacortes Visitor Information Center gather for a potluck at Seafarers Memorial Park (thanks to the Port of Anacortes), and like every year, it was a beautiful day. This is a special event for all since they rarely get the chance to see each other all at the same time and sharing family recipes is the best part.

This year’s party is even more special as a few weeks after this photo was taken, we lost one of our beloved long time volunteers, Betty Dawes. Betty and her husband, Lee, have been working at the VIC since June of 1999. Our hearts and thoughts go out to Lee and family.
member profile

The Rockfish Grill and the Anacortes Brewery were established by partners Allen Rhoades, Rick Star and Paul Wasik in 2000.

The three started out as home brewers and first met when they judged a local competition. Wasik became an original owner of the Anacortes Brewhouse established in 1994 and joined forces with Allen and Rick to establish the new company six years later. (Fun Fact: All three have an aerospace background, Paul being a former naval flight instructor at NAS Whidbey, Rick and Allen being former military aerospace engineers for the Boeing Company.)

Their restaurant, The Rockfish Grill, is a family-friendly establishment serving fresh Northwest food and pouring 16 draft handles of Anacortes Brewery beer. They feature live music from regional and national talent every week.

The Brewery, headed by brewmaster Caleb Wiebe, produces over 40 different styles annually including a unique barrel aged program. Their beers are available at several establishments around town as well as throughout six different counties. The Rockfish is adding the ability to can beers in-house in the next few weeks for anyone wanting beer to go.

The Anacortes Brewery is the 10th oldest in the state and will celebrate their 25th Anniversary this year with a major shindig Saturday, August 10th at the Heart of Anacortes. The event will feature music by popular local bands, The Enthusiasts, Ebb Slack and Flood, The John Savage Blues Band and Old Town Tonic, along with tasty food served from an outdoor grill and eight different styles of Anacortes beers. Among the beers pouring will be their 25th Anniversary beer, Get Back, a fresh take on a classic style, the Extra Special Bitter or ESB. Visit them online at rockfishgrill.com or on Facebook for more information.

employment matters

“Washington bans pay history inquiries, requires disclosure of salary ranges”

Governor Enslee recently signed into law yet another law that impacts employers. On July 28th, dramatic amendments to Washington’s Equal Pay and Opportunities Act will be effective. The amended EPOA will ban employer inquiries about wage or salary histories directly from applicants or indirectly from their previous employer, and requires employers to provide applicants or internal transfers with wage scale/salary range information upon request. The Legislature believed that this will address employer inquiries into salary history which may have contributed to earning inequalities because women have historically been offered lower initial pay than men.

It is our advice that employers should review their job applications and recruiting materials to confirm they do not request previous salary information. Also, employers should confirm that set salary ranges, pay scales, etc., for each position before posting jobs and to be prepared to provide the information to an applicant upon request. Finally, do not retaliate against employees or applicants who ask for this information.

If you have any particular issues you would like to see addressed in this column, do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Hamilton.

-Reid Meyers
Legros, Buchanan and Paul

Chamber staff members, Christy and Bridget, were invited to tour Trident Seafoods with Human Resources Manager, Larry Post. The two were amazed to see the high level of production lines and efficiency of the processing facility. They learned many interesting facts about Trident such as their motto, “From the Source to the Plate.” Trident pledges the ability to confirm the harvest origin for all their seafood products.

Thank you, Trident, for the wonderful tour!
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SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 4 & 5 10th Anniversary

Bier on the Pier returns to Anacortes for its tenth anniversary! The event will be held on October 4th & 5th this fall. Beer lovers from across Washington, Oregon and British Columbia will come to Fidalgo Island to sample delicious beer from 30 breweries and 10 cideries. Bier on the Pier sells out with 2,400 tickets because of the delicious Pacific Northwest beer & cider, food, and live music.

Become a Sponsor!
With attendance split evenly between local attendees and visitors from across the state, Bier on the Pier is a great opportunity to promote your business to an enthusiastic crowd. Just some sponsorship promotions for this event can include a banner at the festival, a sponsorship listing in the program and our website, Facebook mentions, free tickets to the festival, and your logo on the informational poster! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Bridget Fry at the chamber (360-293-7911 or bfry@anacortes.org). Bridget would love to work with you to find the best way to tie your business to this annual festival.

Volunteer!
This two-day festival takes many hands to make this event possible. Volunteering also comes with a great perk—a free ticket to the festival! There are many ways to help—From ticket sales and putting on wristbands, to assisting the breweries with their needs. Volunteer on a Friday and enjoy the festival on Saturday, or vice versa.

Come meet great people in the Anacortes community and have fun while greeting guests and celebrating the best beers in the Pacific Northwest.

You can sign up to volunteer online, go to anacortes.org/bier-on-the-pier/ and click on the “volunteer” tab or call Sandy at 360-293-7911.

Last month, the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce hosted the first candidates forum of the election season. Candidates from the 40th District Senate, City Council, and Port Commission answered questions from moderators John Sternlict and Amanda Hubik.

Ballots for the primary are out and need to be post marked by August 8th. VOTE
Community members, elected officials, service groups, dancers, bands and more came out for this year’s 4th of July parade to entertain locals and celebrate our independence. Later in the evening the Port of Anacortes hosted musicians, food vendors and fun prior to the beautiful fireworks display.

This year’s Shipwreck Fest was a huge success bringing in guests from all over the state as well as locals, all vying to find that special treasure. Fidalgo Island Rotary organized the event and all proceeds from vendor booths go towards scholarships and local community projects.
Let’s All Meet on the Street

Music • Bike & Walk • Food • Exhibits • Buskerfest • Classic Bike Show

Join family, friends & neighbors in downtown Anacortes for a day of car-free camaraderie, activities, food & fun.

Sunday, Aug. 25th
11am – 3pm

Anacortes OPEN STREETS

Sponsored by:

Thank you to Bubba Sudz and their staff for hosting our July Business After Hours. Thank you also to the businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

• Ace Hardware
• Anacortes Oil & Vinegar
• Bubba Sudz
• John L Scott - Allen Workman
• Mountain Pacific Bank

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is proud to be partnering with Skagit Publishing to produce our 2019-2020 membership directory.

Contact John Williams to reserve your ad space today! 360-424-3251 or ads@skagitads.com
new member spotlight

**EJ Harris Photography**
3117 M Commercial Ave, Anacortes
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Portraits and documentary photography business specializing in on-location photography.

**Mountain Pacific Bank**
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(360) 201-9236
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**Salish Sea School**
PO Box 1901, Anacortes
(703) 477-7432
www.thesalishseaschool.org
The Salish Sea School creates youth leaders in marine conservation ecology through experiential and educational programs on the Salish Sea. The first program to launch is for high school students and is called Guardians of the Sea.

**San Juan Transit Tours & Charters, LLC**
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Offering premium cannabis, we foster relationships with Washington’s best growers and leverage our multi-store structure to ensure the best deals for our customers.

Canoe families from Oregon, Washington’s Coastal Regions, British Columbia, and beyond arrived at Seafarers Memorial Park, greeted by the Samish Indian Nation on June 23rd, paddling to their final destination, the Lummi Nation for Canoe Journey 2019.
As many as 10,000 people and 100 canoes participated in this year’s paddle.

member renewals

- Anacortes Family Medicine
- Anacortes Rotary Club
- Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
- Ballow, Gail @ John L. Scott Real Estate
- Bubba Sudz Car Wash and Detail
- Camp Korey
- Cap Sante Heated Mini-Storage and U-Haul
- Cap Sante Inn
- Cat’s Meow, The
- Garner’s Northwest, Inc.
- Johnson Manor, The
- Majestic Inn & Spa
- Marine Supply & Hardware & Alley Cat Antiques
- Peoples Bank
- Piston Service Auto Plus
- RE/MAX Gateway
- San Juan Safaris/San Juan Outfitters
- Sebo’s Hardware & Equipment Rentals
Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org