Join us for the June 13th chamber luncheon to meet two of our state representatives from the 40th district. Sen. Liz Lovelett and Rep. Jeff Morris will each give an update of the recent session, share what accomplishments they are most proud of, and field questions from the audience. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how our state government is run.

The luncheon is sponsored by Scott Milo Gallery at the Framemaker. Scott Milo Gallery is celebrating their 25-year anniversary, offering custom picture framing and regional fine art. They are an art destination worth the journey! Each month they have 5 artists to exhibit their original work on the walls, in addition to creative works from artists doing custom woodwork, ceramics, fused glass, and plenty of jewelry! Their custom framing department is packed with specialists! The staff has many years of picture framing experience and offer great knowledge of design and products to their customers.

The lunch will take place on Thursday, June 13th, 11:30am at the Anacortes Lutheran Church, 2100 O Ave. Please RSVP and pay online or at the chamber office to receive the $18 luncheon rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $20. Prizes for the giveaway are always welcome and promoted.

RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
Okay, there’s lots happening in Anacortes as we end spring and begin summer, so that means more events, more people and more cars. As the Least Patient Person in the World (LPPW, don’t Google it), I remind myself to understand the importance of summer visitors (our guests) to Anacortes and Fidalgo Island, and work on the patience thing when they aren’t driving as I’d like them to. They’re visiting a beautiful area to see family or friends, or perhaps picked Anacortes for a family vacation, and not on their way to a business meeting.

Our guests are vitally important to our community. Many of our locals businesses (including dozens of chamber members) rely on a strong tourism season for a positive bottom line. These businesses pay taxes that support our public services and infrastructure. These businesses pay employees, who shop at other businesses in town (maybe yours) … and our community thrives. Please be considerate of our guests. It helps me to remember how I’ve been warmly welcomed by locals when vacationing; and how this makes me want to return to (and recommend others to visit) these communities.

The ever-popular Waterfront Festival is on for June 1st and 2nd, loaded with activities for the entire family. Check out www.anacortes.org for the busy schedule of events, exhibitors and vendors. I can already hear kids hammering as they create their own toy boats at the Fidalgo Rotary pond.

The warmer weather brings live music to our beautiful outdoor venues including The Heart of Anacortes, Seafarer’s Park, the Depot, and Cap Sante Marina. The popular spray pad – and a new Born Learning Trail – are offered at Storvik Park, not to mention the incredible play area that was built by members of our community.

The Independence Day Parade is scheduled for 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 4th, and we are hopeful that there will be more businesses and community organizations building true parade floats. Also, don’t forget to dress in your most-patriotic garb and join hundreds of locals for the annual town photo at 10 a.m. at 5th Street and Commercial Avenue.

Just as so many in our wonderful town plant and display flowers and ornamental plants and trees, the Anacortes Chamber and our generous partners decorate uptown with vibrant banners, downtown with colorful flower baskets and planter pots, and the city maintains delightful planters on Commercial and R avenues.

I’m looking forward to a fun, active and happy summer. I hope you’ll join in; I’ll be the really patient guy in the gray truck.

-Dennis Richards, Island Hospital

Aspen Power Catamarans was nominated for Seattle Business magazine’s Washington Manufacturing Awards, one of Washington state’s most acclaimed manufacturing industry tributes. They also received a Family Business Award as well. After a lengthy selection process, Aspen Power Catamarans was selected to receive an award for “Manufacturing Company of the Year in the Small Company” category at the 2019 Washington Manufacturing Awards gala on April 23! The Washington Manufacturing Awards is our region’s premier manufacturing awards event, recognizing companies making important progress in productivity, growth, and innovation. Aspen is honored to receive this award. Founder and chief executive officer Larry Graf started Aspen in 2008 to build powered catamarans — twin fiberglass hulls — for the recreational boating market. In just the past three years, Aspen has doubled annual revenue to $6 million, with a workforce of 36 employees and 30,000 square feet of production space in Burlington. Its lineup of boat designs has grown too, with Aspen offering boats up to 40 feet in length. Befitting its status as a larger company, Aspen has been paying attention to the behind-the-scenes details. That includes investing $1.3 million in new tooling and more sophisticated systems to cover functions, such as inventory/purchasing and management systems as well as production planning and forecasting. Next up: introduction of a 50-foot model, and more marketing in the form of adventure tours featuring Aspen catamarans.
boat show wrap up

The 2nd Annual Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show was a great success. The show’s program contained a great map that showcased how close shops and restaurants are to the marina as the chamber continues to work on connectivity. NMTA spent $60,000 on advertising for the show, which means promoting Anacortes and our local businesses. The weather was beatiful and the docks and tents were full of happy boat owners and dreamers. We want to thank the NMTA and their staff for helping the chamber put on such a great event!

Attendance was 5,085 on par with last year. Tickets were sold to attendees from twelve states and provinces and as far away as Connecticut and New York.

Our four-legged friends joined in the fun too. We tallied a total of 218 dogs and 2 cats at the show this year as well!

305 boats on display compared to 259 in 2018.

124 Exhibitors compared to 105 last year.
YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE.
We take the burden of business supply management off your shoulders.
With an Ace Commercial Account, we deliver:
• Janitorial and sanitation products
• Property management supplies
• Paper products and more
Contact our B2B specialist Brent at brobi@aceanacortes.com or call 360-402-5589 or apply online today at TheSupplyPlace.com/05588

employment matters

By definition, most all of the Anacortes Chamber members are employers. It seems that recently Washington employers are being subjected to one new state or federal rule or regulation after another and you are spending more time keeping up with employment issues than running your business.

In future issues of the Chamber Newsletter, this column will provide updates and tips on new employment laws, case law, and practical solutions for you. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case last month on the issue of whether LGBTQs are a protected case under Title II of the Civil Rights Act. The Court’s decision will come out in late June and will be the law of the land. It is expected that Chief Justice Roberts will again be the swing vote.

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

-Reid Meyers
Attorney, LeGros, Buchanan and Paul.

Congratulations to the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance on their NMTA Grant Fund that was presented at the Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show!
**volunteer profile**

Janet Roberts came to Anacortes in 1994. She bought land and built her home here. Raised in England, she spent more than 40 years in the culinary food business. With a degree in hotel management, she started her career cooking for 100 students on a coal fired AGA stove at the Canterbury Cathedral Choir School, where she also served as a surrogate mom to the choir boys. She moved to the U.S. in 1967, first to Grosse Point, Michigan, and subsequently to the San Francisco Bay area, Lake Tahoe, Vancouver Island and San Diego before finally discovering Anacortes.

Janet was married of 31 years and has one daughter, Suzanne, and a granddaughter, Zoe.

In the San Diego Unified School District, she was a food service area manager responsible for overseeing as many as 26 high schools. While in San Diego, she was also a member of a volunteer team feeding the prisoners down over the boarder in the Tijuana jail.

On Vancouver Island, she taught baking to mentally handicapped adults in a residential village, as well as running a B&B on her mini farm.

Janet worked and volunteered at Hospice of the Northwest for 17 years. She just loved it.

Janet volunteered for the Anacortes Citizens Patrol and took the Coast Guard Auxiliary course in boating.

She treasures her garden and has spent wonderful times out around the islands in her kayak with the orcas in the J, K and L pods.

Janet has been a blood donor for decades and is thrilled she is able to continue.

Currently a volunteer at the Anacortes Visitor Center, she feels it is an opportunity and a privilege to greet guests and help them plan their time in our wonderful city.

**may events**

Ribbon cutting at Aspire Wellness.

2019 Anacortes Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling held at Trident Seafoods. Board Chair Dennis Richards and Event Sponsor Cory Ertel from Shell Refinery present this year’s poster while chamber members enjoy food from Gere-a-deli and Trident Seafoods as wells as beverages from Anacortes Brewery.

Monthly Membership Luncheon held at the Majestic Inn & Spa Ballroom. Pictured left: Ambassador Brandon Carter from Robert W. Baird, Kate Bennett from Leadership Skagit and chamber member Don Wick. Pictured right: Ambassador Shona Marting from Fidalgo Financial Planning and Board Member Barry Harter from Central Payment Corporation.
ambassadors

Mindy Holland, Chair
Interpreting Technology

Brandon Carter
Robert W Baird

Crystal Eddy
Banner Bank

Erica Guesford
Bank of the Pacific

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

Rebecca Wentworth
Pet Place Market

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.

welcome new employee

In May, we welcomed Bridget Fry as our new Event and Communications Coordinator. She recently moved to Anacortes from Pensacola, Florida with her Navy husband and teenage labrador, Bubba. She has a background in event management with a wide range of event experience including military functions, business grand openings and large scale weddings. She is a certified Wedding Planner with a degree in Hospitality Management & Business from Colorado State University.

She is already in love with Anacortes and the beautiful scenery, hiking trails, and the plethora of mini grocery stores! She looks forward to working with her new team and organizing the special events for our community.

Anacortes High School students helped chamber staff put up these beautiful flower baskets along the north end of Commercial Avenue. With the help of the City of Anacortes, these will remain up and flourishing until fall.
Saturday June 22nd
SAVE BIG on clothing, home goods, antiques, gifts, jewelry, deals at restaurants on food items and drinks, and more - just look around on the sidewalks at your favorite shops!

Join us for a Whale of a Sale

Participating Businesses Include:
Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar - 704 Commercial Ave.
Aspire Wellness - 909 Commercial Ave.
Burton Jewelers - 620 Commercial Ave.
Fidalgo Artisan Yams & Clothing - 711 Commercial Ave.
The Good Stuff Arts - 604 Commercial Ave.
The Johnson Manor - 702 Commercial Ave.
Lil' Tugs Children's Boutique - 713 Commercial Ave.
The Rockfish Grill - 320 Commercial Ave.
Tides of Anacortes - 804 Commercial Ave.
Union Tavern - 902 Commercial Ave.

member renewals
- Bayside Specialties, Inc.
- Evans Funeral Chapel
- Land Title and Escrow
- North Island Boat Co.
- Pacific Party Canopies Inc
- R & R Charters
- SaviBank
- Chuckanut Valley Veterinary Clinic
- Dad’s Diner A Go-Go
- Oyster Run, Inc.
- Keystone Building Services, LLC
- Lighthouse Memory Care
- Bastion Brewing Company
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- Landed Gentry Development, Inc
- Legendary World
- Anacortes Yacht Club
- Gabrielse, Kristi @ Windermere Real Estate
- Fidalgo Island Rotary Club

new member spotlight
Indulge Wine & Dessert Bar
910 Commercial Ave, Anacortes
(360) 873-8551
“Adventurous, unique, intimate, and relaxed” describes this exceptional new wine and dessert bar here in Anacortes. Wine by the glass or the bottle, beer, ciders, appetizers, shareable Charcuterie, and exclusive indulgent desserts!

Jimmy John’s
2101 Commercial Ave, Anacortes
(360) 299-1020
Jimmy John’s is a gourmet sandwich restaurant featuring fresh baked bread, the freshest of vegetables, and meats and cheeses sliced daily in-store. Served Freaky Fast!

Njordic Mountain
1119 K Ave, Anacortes
(425) 583-0194
Natural beekeepers with all hives located in Anacortes area. Handmade natural products include infused honey, honey based dressings, honey, honey baked goods, beeswax candles, moisturizers/skin care.

Pet Place Market
1005 9th St., Anacortes
(360) 755-6534
Quality pet foods and supplies, and self service dog wash.

Three Girls Media, Inc.
1201 E. Yelm Ave., Suite 400, Yelm
(408) 218-2391
Three Girls Media is an award-winning Marketing & PR agency that provides a wide range of services to raise brand awareness and name recognition including social media, blogging & email marketing.
vic (visitor information center) statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April 2018</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>April 2018</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>Relocation Requests</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Web Users</td>
<td>13,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Requests</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Page Views</td>
<td>34,558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

ANACORTES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

819 Commercial Ave., Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED