



# THE ANACORTES COMMUNICATOR

The Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Volume 22 / Issue 2

## calendar

- Thursday, February 2** 11:45 am  
**Ambassador Lunch Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Thursday, February 2** 4:00 pm  
**Economic Development Division Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Thursday, February 2** 5:30 pm  
**Business After Hours**  
Center for Aesthetic Reconstructive  
& Hand Surgery at Island Hospital
- Tuesday, February 7** 3:30 pm  
**Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Thursday, February 9** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
**State of the City Luncheon**  
Anacortes Lutheran Church
- Thursday, February 9** 3:45 pm  
**Governmental Affairs Division Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, February 14** 2:45 pm  
**Membership Division Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Thursday, February 16** 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
**Business After Hours**  
Majestic Inn & Spa
- Friday, February 17** 10:30 am  
**Finance/Executive Meeting**  
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, February 21** 3:00 pm  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
TBD
- Tuesday, February 28** 9:00 am  
**Visitor Information Center Volunteer Meeting**  
Chamber Office

## state of the city

The annual “State of the City” presented by Mayor Dean Maxwell will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 from 11:30–1:00pm at the Anacortes Lutheran Church at 22nd and O Avenue, and will be catered by Gere-A-Deli.

Mayor Maxwell will provide an overview of capital projects including the Great Northern Depot Plaza project, the water treatment plant expansion project, and the Guemes Channel Trail, along with updates on the city’s financial picture, city departments, and other relevant community issues. As always, there will be time for questions.

This luncheon is sponsored by the *Anacortes American*. With its special reports, editorials and award-winning coverage of everyday events in our community, the American helps set the agenda and drive discussion and action on the issues important to people here. A three-person newsroom and Publisher Jack Darnton work from the American office at 901 Sixth Street. The American is part of Skagit Publishing LLC, and advertising functions are handled by Anacortes sales rep John Williams and other staff working from the Skagit Valley Herald’s new building in Mount Vernon.

RSVP to the chamber via email or by phone 360-293-7911. Don’t forget to promote your business further by bringing a gift for the give-away!



**Mayor Maxwell with home stay host Pasha Petrov in Sister City Lomonosov, Russia.**

## business after hours

# Majestic Inn & Spa

With love in the air, February is a GREAT month to THINK MAJESTIC!

The Majestic Inn and Spa has been a landmark in Anacortes for many years. With new ownership and management, all the charm and elegance that old friends have come to expect is still here as well as some modern amenities that we hope you will enjoy. Please join us at our Business After Hours on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 5:30 until 7:00pm and meet our team.

Whether you want to pamper yourself, your sweetheart, or both The Majestic Inn and Spa, with our 5th Street Bistro, can spoil you in all our grandeur.

NOW SERVING BREAKFAST AND COMING THIS SPRING OUR NEW 5TH STREET BISTRO LUNCH MENU. A locals favorite, we serve Happy Hour daily from 4-6pm and on Fridays and Saturdays we get happy twice, also from 9-close.

We are now taking dinner reservations for our mouth-watering, 4-course Valentine’s Dinner. Seating is at 7pm and the cost is just \$42 per person, including music.

Whether your heart is set on intimacy or group events, THINK MAJESTIC!

RSVP to the chamber 360-293-7911 and remember to bring a gift to the give-away! The Majestic Inn & Spa: 419 Commercial Avenue, Thursday, February 16, 2012 5:30pm–7:00pm.



## cornerstone members



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## a message from the executive director

# Your Chamber of Commerce Means Business.

When we look at issues affecting our community, we must consistently remind ourselves that *commerce* means *business* and that is what your chamber is here to do – focus on your business.

Small businesses create jobs, they supply retail sales tax to our city and state, and they give back by helping to fund community organizations that serve our citizens. We need healthy businesses to ensure a vibrant community.

The **Governmental Affairs** division has been working on a platform, which will help drive our efforts as advocates on behalf of our membership both locally and with our representatives in Olympia.

**Waterfront:** Better utilization of the Anacortes waterfront is paramount to the success of our community in the decades to come. The goal of government should be to foster a mutually beneficial relationship

between the business/developer and the community which enables our waterfront properties to provide improved economic output and enhanced public access.

**Ferries/Infrastructure:** Maintaining and developing infrastructure is essential to the success of the Anacortes business community. The Washington State Ferry System, with its Anacortes Terminal, can afford no more reductions, including any reductions to the international ferry runs. All options must be explored to maintain credible ferry service as it is essential to the continued viability of our island community.

**Economic Development:** As an island community, planning for future growth and successfully recruiting new business is essential to the long-term success of our community. Government must invest adequate resources that originate from businesses taxes, in support of economic development, a

prepared workforce and business recruitment to Anacortes.

### **Government Efficiency:**

Businesses need a more predictable, simple and fair tax and regulatory environment to survive and thrive. Government must better understand the challenges and burdens they consistently place on the business owner. Heavy regulation, complex tax code and duplicitous government agency oversight hinders business growth.

We will continue to work with the Skagit Business Alliance and other regional chambers to champion for business in Olympia.

During this legislative session there will be times our legislators need to hear from you, be a part of the voice and contact them!



## Business After Hours Change of Date:

**Center for Aesthetic, Reconstructive & Hand Surgery at Island Hospital**

Thursday, February 2, 2012

5:30- 7:00pm

Island Hospital

Medical Office Building

2511 M Ave., Suite C, Anacortes

Please RSVP with the chamber at 360-293-7911



*Mayor Dean Maxwell joined Island Hospital CEO Vince Oliver and hospital commissioners in cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Medical Arts Pavilion at Island Hospital, which houses the Merle Cancer Care Center, Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy Center, and the new Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine Center.*

*Left to right: Commissioner Jan Iversen, CEO Vince Oliver, Commissioner and Board President Laurie Gere, Commissioner Chip Bogosian MD, Mayor Dean Maxwell, Commissioner Paul Maughan PhD.*



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## member profile

# Frida's Gourmet Mexican Cuisine

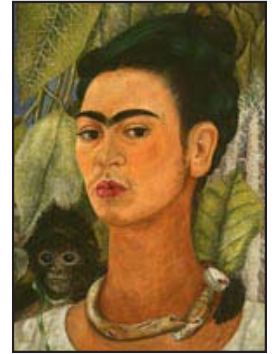
Getting ready to start the second half of their first year in Anacortes is a busy time at Frida's Gourmet Mexican Cuisine. The Mexican eatery opened in July last year and has something very new to bring to the table. Here one will find delicious food not on the typical Mexican menu: excellent takes on stuffed peppers, steaks glazed in zucchini sauce or marinated in vinaigrette with hibiscus flowers, not to mention the quality Latin American wines that pair perfectly. Then of course there is the unmatched tequila selection. Frida's boasts the largest tequila selection in the state and offers everything from the well known Patron to the premium Extra Añejo tequilas made by a handful of distillers.

Frida's, appropriately named after famed Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, shows the amount of inspiration her personal life and paintings gave chef-owner Jose Antonio Piña

to conceptualize a restaurant and menu around Frida's life. Her portraits hang proudly throughout the restaurant and all menu items are named after her contemporaries and other Mexican artists. The staff and owners of Frida's hope every guest leaves with a better understanding of her life and works. A small biography about Kahlo is presented in the menu. Frida's is working to bring even more to the experience, with acoustic guitarists and paired dinners in the works.

Really all of this has been possible in Anacortes because a frequent visitor to Frida's in Mill Creek is a local Anacortes resident. Piña

was informed of the vacancy Frida's now occupies on Commercial Ave by this loyal, local customer. Frida's hopes to establish itself permanently in the Old Town district of Anacortes and become a cornerstone of the local dining experience. With a dedicated lunch menu, an excellent happy hour, a unique dinner menu and private room to host a range of events, Frida's has something for everyone.



## Fidalgo Island Quilters

### Quilt Show

April 6 & 7, 2012

Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm

Anacortes Middle School

Admission \$5, 12 and under free

### Style Show

Saturday Only, 1pm

### Quilt Walk

April 1-30, 2012

Downtown Anacortes Businesses

[www.fidalgoislandquilters.com](http://www.fidalgoislandquilters.com)



# THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SKAGIT VALLEY'S -16TH ANNUAL LIVE & SILENT- BLACK CAT AUCTION

SAVE THE NEW DATE!

March 31, 2012

5:30 pm

Port of Anacortes  
Transit Shed  
Event Center



360.757.2568

Presale tickets available online at:

[www.skagithumane.com](http://www.skagithumane.com)

# 2012-13 Anacortes Chamber MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory offers economical, targeted advertising to the Anacortes business community and is one of the benefits of your chamber membership.

The membership directory is used by existing members as a reference guide to businesses and services available in Anacortes. It is also used by the Chamber to introduce new businesses to our market.

*These new businesses  
mean new potential  
customers for you!*

Support your Chamber. A percentage of your ad dollars go directly to the Chamber.

## ADVERTISING RATES

### PREMIUM SPOTS

SIZE	B/W	Color
OBC Page	—	\$ 975.00
IFC Page	—	\$ 860.00
IBC Page	—	\$ 725.00
Center Spread	—	\$1,590.00

### STANDARD SPOTS

SIZE	B/W	Color
Full Page	\$525.00	\$ 595.00
1/2 Page	\$390.00	\$ 460.00
1/4 Page	\$270.00	\$ 340.00
1/8 Page	\$165.00	\$ 225.00

**FULL COLOR GLOSSY PUBLICATION!**

**Distribution Date:** May, 2012

**DON'T DELAY!**  
Sales Deadline is Mar. 15, 2012.



**Contact us today for more info!**

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**Kim Hildahl**

360.480.2428

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*Members of the Skagit Business Alliance travelled to Olympia the first week of the session to meet with legislators, present the SBA's legislative agenda, and ask them their views on the budget situation. Pictured are Rep Jeff Morris, Kristen Whitener (Mount Vernon Chamber), Stephanie Hamilton, Cory Ertel (Puget Sound Energy), chamber board member Matt Miller (Read Me A Story), Sheri Nelson (Sierra Pacific), chamber board member Kathy Larson (Puget Sound Energy), and representing SICBA Gary Wray (Laser Construction).*



*In November, the Port of Anacortes celebrated the opening of the new office building for long-term tenant, Puget Sound Rope. This is the first new port-built building on port property in 15 years.*



*Cory Ertel of Puget Sound Energy gives Bingo the thumbs up at the January chamber luncheon.*



*Dr. Amber Fowler is joined by her family, friends, staff, Mayor Dean Maxwell, and chamber board President Kristi Gabrielse at Rosario Skin Clinic's ribbon cutting ceremony in January.*



*"Ribbon cuttings are the bestest parties ever!"*



*Deborah McNeal, Carrie Worra, and Molly McIntosh enjoying networking through Bingo!*



*The staff at Rosaio Skin Clinic with Mayor Maxwell.*



*Lest you forget our "winter extreme" commute last month.*

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## ambassador profile

### Jim Gordon

Jim's heart has always been in the northwest. An impulsive move to Honolulu in 1980 led to a new career in the communications industry which has endured for more than 30 years.



Moving all over the west with different companies was a wonderful experience however; the northwest was always pulling him home. How is it, when you return to the northwest for a visit and your plane is approaching SeaTac, there is either not a cloud in site or the beautiful puffy white clouds floating by to add perspective to the sky?

Finally, Jim got back to the northwest and decided Anacortes was home since he had spent time there building a home for his parents to retire. Anacortes offers everything someone could want in a hometown, small town friendliness, arguably the best weather in the state and all the outdoor activities you could want. Jim's love of being on the water is also easily satiated with he and his wife Sharon's sailboat that they lived on for a couple years. Sailing on the sound offers some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere in the world, we are truly lucky to live here.

Jim's involvement in the chamber first as a member then as an ambassador is driven by his desire to get more involved in the Anacortes community.

Jim's business, Freedom Wireless Media, is all about communications, voice, data, and entertainment for your home or office. Freedom's only goal is to provide the best service experience our customers have ever had.

Please give us a call and let us show you the latest offerings for entertainment and communications. We are local and here to help.

#### **Freedom Wireless Media**

360-424-0982 - store

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[www.freedomwirelessmedia.com](http://www.freedomwirelessmedia.com)

## 2012 Ambassadors

- Josh Baldwin**—Quantum Construction
- Carla Cummins**—All About Honeymoons & Vacations
- Lara Dunning**—Gems, LLC
- Candice Geer**—Guild Mortgage Company
- Jim Gordon**—Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
- Jack Hamilton**—Labor Ready, Inc.
- Barry Harter**—Central Payment Corporation
- Jan Hersey**—Biz Point Communications
- Debra Jones**—Individual Member
- Kari Kennedy**—KeyBank
- Yolonda Norman de Fernandez**—Amigo Trails—Copper Canyon Specialist
- Leileah Petty**—Farmers Insurance
- Jeffery Pleet, CLU, ChFC**—Edward Jones—Jeffery Pleet
- Therese Rudzis**—Individual Member
- Mary Staley**—Marketing with Mary
- Sandy Swartos**—Steam Interactive, LLC
- Boyd Veer**—Seaside Autobody & Accessories
- John Williams**—Skagit Publishing

## thanks...

*Thank you to the following members for donating door prizes for the January Chamber Luncheon:*

- American Cancer Society
- Bayside Specialties, Inc
- Costco
- Eslick House & Boat Watch
- Gracious Living Interior Design
- Home Place Special Care Center
- KeyBank
- Marketing With Mary
- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Take Shape For Life—Veronica Spencer

## member renewals

- Anacortes Financial Associates
- Anacortes Housing Authority
- Anchor Signs & Awnings
- Coldwell Banker Bain
- Construction Unlimited, Inc.
- Marc L. Estvold, AIA
- Golden Services, LLC
- Homeplace Special Care Center
- How It Works
- Island Hospital Foundation
- Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.
- Take Shape For Life with Veronica Spencer
- Tri-County Recycling

## new members

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# Spring Wine Festival Wineries & Sponsors

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### Magnum:

- Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company

### Carafe:

- Anacortes American
- Cornerstone Home Lending
- Key Bank

### Table Sponsors:

- Tri-County Recycling
- Majestic Inn and Spa

### Friend of the Festival:

- Chinook Enterprises
- Upstage Boutique and Men's Store

## Wineries to date:

- Bunnell Family Cellar
- Chinook Wines
- Dubindil Winery
- Glacial Lake Missoula Wine Co.
- Illusion Winery
- Lantz Cellars
- Lost River Winery
- Masquerade Wine Company
- Milbrandt Vineyards
- Okanogan Estate & Vineyard
- Saint Laurent Winery
- San Juan Vineyards
- Terra Blanca Winery and Estate Vineyard
- Whidbey Island Winery



# Birch Equipment celebrates 40 years

With locations serving Washington State and SE Alaska, dedicated and knowledgeable employees and an amazing customer base, Birch Equipment has a lot to celebrate. And this month, the company adds 40 years in business to the list.

Birch Equipment first opened its doors in 1972, outlasted hostile take-over efforts in the mid-90s and continues to thrive despite the last few years of economic turmoil. Birch is the leading independently-owned equipment rental and sales company in the Pacific Northwest and Southeast Alaska with seasonal coverage from Western Alaska to Montana. In 2011, the company was ranked the 91st top rental firm nationally in a rental equipment pool of mostly internationally-owned companies.

To celebrate and thank customers, Birch is offering a special 40% off selected one day rentals Tuesday–Thursday (9am) through the month of February. Plus, stop by any Washington location on Wednesday, January 18th for equipment demos, in-store specials and refreshments.



*Sarah Rothenbuhler of Birch Equipment running the boom lift.*

A local owner with national expertise, Birch Equipment is based in Bellingham, Washington with stores in Bellingham, Anacortes and Mount Vernon, Washington and Sitka, Alaska.

Birch is both DBE and WBENC certified. For more information browse the Birch Equipment website at [birchequipment.com](http://birchequipment.com).

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Bela Berghuys *Islands Inn*

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Duane Clark *Cap Sante Court Retirement Community*

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Dean Maxwell *City of Anacortes*

Vince Oliver *Island Hospital*

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Mary Talosi *Visitor Information & Operations Director*

Cecilie Miller *Event & Communications Coordinator*

Leah Hines *Marketing & Promotions Coordinator*

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**vic (visitor information center) statistics**

	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010		Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010
Visitors	475	476	Relocation Requests	31	11
Phone Calls	279	158	Web Visits	7,099	6,589
Information Requests	33	7	Web Page Views	17,656	17,527

**Thank you, volunteers! Volunteer Hours: 249 Visit us on the web at [www.anacortes.org](http://www.anacortes.org)**



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