



OCTOBER 2011

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www.anacortes.org

THE ANACORTES COMMUNICATOR

The Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Volume 21 / Issue 10

calendar

- Tuesday, October 4** 3:00 pm
Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 6** 11:45 am
Ambassador Lunch Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 6** 4:00 pm
Economic Development Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, October 11** 2:45 pm
Membership Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, October 12** 7:00 am – 4:00 pm
Board of Directors Retreat
- Thursday, October 13** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Candidate Presentation Luncheon
Anacortes Lutheran Church
- Thursday, October 13** 3:45 pm
Governmental Affairs Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Friday, October 14** 10:30 am
Finance/Executive Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 20** 5:30–7:00 pm
Business After Hours
KeyBank
- Tuesday, October 25** 9:00 am
VIC Volunteer Meeting
Chamber Office

chamber luncheon

Candidates Forum

The chamber is hosting our annual candidate lunch on October 13 from 11:30 am–1:00 pm at the Anacortes Lutheran Church (22nd and O Avenue). This luncheon provides members an excellent opportunity to familiarize themselves with a wide variety of local races. We are inviting candidates for city council, port commission, school district board, pool commission and hospital commission to attend.

Candidates will give an opening and closing statement and will answer submitted questions from the audience. Additionally, the candidates will be sitting among the chamber members, offering extra opportunities to get to know them.

This luncheon is also our annual meeting where the slate of nominated board members will be voted on. Your attendance is important to ensure we have a quorum of chamber members.

The lunch is catered by **Avenue Catering** and is \$15. Please RSVP to the chamber at .293-7911

business after hours

Key Bank

Including Anacortes, KeyBank will operate 166 Branches within Washington by the end of 2011. *BusinessWeek Magazine* named Key the top bank in its Customer Service Champ 2009 edition, ranking Key 11th out of the top 25 companies. Key prides itself on offering the full services found at a large banking institution while providing the care, compassion and service that local businesses and individuals expect of a community bank. Key companies provide retail and commercial banking, consumer finance, mortgage lending and investment services.

The event is co-sponsored by **Avenue Catering**, the premier catering company of Greater Western Washington with menus ranging from finger foods to fine dining.

Please come join us to celebrate our first anniversary here in Anacortes at the business after hours on October 20th, 2011 from 5:30–7:00 pm and meet our local team. KeyBank is located at 1600 Commercial Avenue. RSVP to the chamber at 360-293-7911. Please bring a gift for the give-away!



Oktoberfest

The cries of prost once again herald the arrival of Oktoberfest! Feast on four varieties of sausage, blaukraut, schnitzel, homemade German potato salad, apfelmus, and more at the second annual Anacortes Oktoberfest celebration! Due to demand this year's Oktoberfest has been extended to a two-day extravaganza!

So don your dirndl or lederhosen, bring your thirst for beer, leave room for brats and enjoy the smorgasbord of all the tasty German foods available (see **Oktoberfest continued on page 7**)



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a message from the executive director

Although our busy season is officially behind us, the chamber is promoting through the 2% tourism fund and other grassroots methods a plethora of shoulder season events produced by the chamber and others organizations. Our hope is to continue to bring visitors to Anacortes in an expanded season. Take advantage of these wonderful events right in your own back yard.

September 30th–October 2nd Anacortes Boat Show – Port of Anacortes' Cap Sante Boat Haven

Over 70 boats of every type and style will be brought to the docks especially for this FREE event, so you'll want to wear your most comfortable boat shoes and be ready to stay all day!

Established by a cooperative of Anacortes yacht brokers and dealers, there's plenty of experience on hand to answer all of your questions as you walk the docks.

A decidedly casual event, boaters from all over the United States and Canada make it a point to be there each year to enjoy the

boats, the scenery, and hopefully a little Northwest sunshine!

2011 North American Town Crier Championship

Criers from across Canada and the United States will compete in three rounds of Cries. The winner to be crowned North American Town Crier Champion.

Saturday, Oct. 1

Round One

- "Home Town" Cry takes place at Causland Park at 10:00 am or at the Library (in case of Rain)

Round Two

- "Amusing" Cray takes place at The Heart of Anacortes at 2:00 pm

Sunday, Oct 2

Round Three

- "Advertising" Cry takes place at the Seafarers Memorial Park at 2:00 pm

October 7th and 8th

Anacortes Oktoberfest – Bier on the Pier

Friday – 5–9 pm; Saturday – 12–6 pm — \$20 advance/\$25 at door!

Last year's event was so successful that

the planning committee added a second day! This is heralded as the largest brewer participated Oktoberfest in Washington State – 30

breweries will be set up to sample their beers. (see related story on page 1).

October 29th

Island Retreat Antique and Vintage Market –

This is a follow up to the spring antique show which brought close to 1000 visitors down Commercial Avenue to the Port Of Anacortes' Transit Shed Event Center.

The show is from 9 am–4 pm; admission is \$3-\$5.

The show features antique, vintage, artful and handmade goods presented with style and inspiration by selected vendors.



Retail

It's time to scare up some Halloween spirit!

The Retail Trades Group has moved the downtown trick or treat to the actual day of Halloween, Monday October 31st, from 2-5pm.

Fall Antique show is coming, October 29th under new management from Deb Kennedy of **Retreat Vintage Market**. The new name for the Fall Antique show is: Anacortes Antique Show, Island Retreat & Vintage Market.

Retailers have recently noticed a trend of shoplifting/theft in the downtown stores and are partnering with Anacortes Police Department to raise awareness and detour such activity.



Downtown Trick or Treating October 31st, 2 - 5pm

KP Studios will again be taking goolish photos

Village Pizza will offer free pizza bites &

Costume contest at 4:00 pm





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member profile

Gary Thramer—Edward Jones

Gary was born in Burlington and grew up in the Skagit Valley. Gary met his wife Colleen Murphy, an Anacortes native, and together they have raised their children Laura (25) and Nathan (23).

Gary spent several years in management of a manufacturing facility in South Seattle before he purchased the company in 1996. He later sold his company and went into the consulting business before entering the financial services industry in 2002. After working in downtown Bellevue for the next 7 years, Gary was offered an opportunity to work for Edward Jones. It was a fantastic offer, as Gary says, but one that he would only accept under two conditions. Number one, it had to be in Anacortes and number two, my office needs to be in old town. When Edward Jones agreed, it didn't take long to pack up

and move out of the city.

When he first came to town, he joined up with Steve Daly, another Edward Jones advisor before opening his office at 812 Commercial Ave last November. It was nice to get my business transitioned and settled before taking on the overhead and responsibility of a new office. During that transition time Gary met and hired Kathy Crofoot to be his Branch Office Administrator. Kathy and her husband David have been long-time Anacortes residents and make their home in Clearidge.

This is a dream come true, Gary says. Living and working in this community is absolutely wonderful. I often tell my friends and clients who are still stuck in the big city that my life has become very "Norman Rockwellsque." I enjoy getting involved in my community as I have since my younger days.

I joined the Chamber of Commerce last January after I opened my office. I am also a member of the Anacortes Rotary Club, the Anacortes Library Foundation, the Elks Club and the Knights of Columbus. Giving back to the community is good for soul. It's something I've always done and will continue to do as long as I can.

Kathy and I are working hard to build a great Edward Jones branch here in Anacortes. Everything we do is focused on helping our clients reach their long-term financial goals. We appreciate to opportunity to serve this community and invite everyone to stop by and say "Hi". The coffee pot is always on, and we are here to help.



meet your board

Kathy Larson

Kathy Larson motored into Cap Sante Marina the day before school started that September day in 1997. She and her two children, in grades 6 and 8 at the time, lived on the 50' boat for the next three months while they settled into school, work and the community. Kathy chose Anacortes because of its waterfront community and the excellent schools. Her entire career has been at Puget Power/Puget Sound Energy. She relocated from Pierce County to Anacortes and Skagit County when she accepted the Community Relations Manager position at the merger of then Puget Power and Washington Natural Gas working in both Skagit and Whatcom County.

Being involved in the community and with chambers of commerce is not new for Kathy. She previously was on the boards of the Kent, Auburn and Federal Way chambers of commerce and chaired the Kent Chamber's Government Affairs committee. Additionally

with her new PSE responsibilities in Skagit and Whatcom County, she joined the Bellingham Chamber board and moved into the executive vice president role of the Whatcom County Economic Development Council, Skagit County Community Action Agency board and the Padilla Bay Foundation board. In 2003 Kathy assumed a more technical role at PSE in the Major Accounts group where she is one of eight account managers working with the company's top 500 customers. She works with all the major hospitals in PSE's service territory from Bellingham to Chehalis as well as a number of other large manufacturing businesses including Nintendo of North America, Washington Concrete and Aggregates, and locally here with Pacific Woodtech, Hexcel Corp., Washington Alder and Trident Seafoods just to name a few. Puget Sound Energy is Washington state's oldest local en-

ergy utility, serving more than 1 million electric customers and 750,000 natural gas customers in 11 counties.

Currently Kathy is on our Anacortes Chamber board where she chairs the Governmental Affairs Division and participates on the Skagit Business Alliance legislative group along with Stephanie Hamilton. Additionally she is board past-president for the Skagit Women's Alliance & Network (SWAN Board), president-elect of Skagit Women in Business and a member of the Anacortes noon Rotary.

Kathy is a news junkie and pays attention to political activities and initiatives. She enjoys boating, hiking and other outdoor activities as well as being an avid gardener.





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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Bunnies By The Bay teams up with Make A Wish

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of WNY® and the creators of Bunnies By the Bay® partnered together to grant the selfless and magical wish of a remarkable four year old named Lauren who's one true wish is to give "Bunnies By The Bay—Buddy Blankets" as a means of comfort and Glad Dreams to all the children at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo New York.

Lauren has spent a great deal of time at Women's and Children's Hospital undergoing treatment for Wilm's Tumor, a life-threatening medical condition which made her eligible to receive a wish through the Make-A-

Wish Foundation of WNY. Lauren's wish was to provide comfort and Glad Dreams to other patients at the hospital was born out of her first-hand experience of receiving a special "best friend" plush blanket that brought her solace during that difficult time.

Lauren's wish was fulfilled on August 10, 2011, accompanied by Mary Hynes, Bunnies By The Bay, sales manager at the FAO Swartz location. Mary played the part of Elsa Attaberry, the caregiver in the Bunnies By The Bay Hareytale. Both Lauren and Mary presented children being treated with a "Buddy Blanket" that included a special heartfelt get well message from Lauren.

About Bunnies by the Bay® Founded in 1986, Bunnies By The Bay has been a brand name synonymous with a story of charm in timeless products. The famous La Conner Hutch Store attracts visitors annually is the only one of its kind. Bunnies By The Bay is now in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China, and is widely available around the world, delighting babies everywhere.

About Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western New York. The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

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



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Presale tickets available online at:
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From September 6 through 19, a group of 19 Anacortes Sister Cities Association (ASCA) members spent two weeks visiting two of its sister cities - Lomonosov, Russia and Vela Luka, Croatia. Mayor Dean Maxwell, city council member Cynthia Richardson, EDASC director Don Wick and several ASCA officers (President Duane Clark, VP John Lovric, Treasurer Mark Lijek) were part of the group.

The travelers joined in Lomonosov's 300th anniversary celebration, visited St Petersburg and Peterhof, and enjoyed the experience of staying in the homes of residents of Lomonosov. 2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the sister cities relationship between Anacortes and Lomonosov.

In Vela Luka, ASCA members had the opportunity to enjoy/endure 90 degree weather and visit the cities of Korcula and Dubrovnik. There was a special performance for ASCA members (and many folks in town) put on by the Kumpanija Sword Dancers, and Klapa singers. In addition, members had an opportunity to see the olive tree that was planted in Vela Luka in 2004 to commemorate the sister cities connection.

This was a visit that included rich cultures, beautiful scenery, splendid food, and most of all many new, kind and generous friends.

25TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

November 5th, 9am - 4pm

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Thank You!



We are so lucky to live where we do, but even luckier to have the friends, neighbors, and community that make living here even better. This was again proven last month by all the folks in our community who when asked donated goods, services, time, and spirit to create a wonderful 100 year celebration of our chamber.

People shared memories, photos, articles, stages, podiums, delineators, cakes, oh and the food—unbelievable amounts of beautifully crafted food. There was water, wine and beer, members pitched in with their sweat to move and hang things, loaned trucks, tables and easels, printed last minute rush items, wrote speeches and stories, and brought bows and balloons. It was such an array of businesses that pitched in and made the celebration absolutely perfect.

Thanks to you all, but more than that thank you to every single Anacortes chamber member for connecting and keeping our chamber strong; we are solid and looking forward to the next 100 years!



Top Left: Town Crier Rich Riddell gathers all the past chamber presidents on stage with Secretary of State Sam Reed.

Top Right: Secretary of State Sam Reed presents Board President Mark Bunzel and past Board President Wallie Funk with a Century Corporation certificate at the Century Celebration party at the chamber on September 8, 2011.

Above: Nick Chahley of Walgreens and his employees pass out water, pedometers, and sign folks up for flu shots at the Century Celebration.

Special thanks to the following folks:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Anacortes Construction Services | Il Posto | Rich Riddell |
| Anacortes Museum of History | Insights Gallery | Rockfish Grill/ |
| Anne Martin McCool | Island Rentals | Anacortes Brewery |
| Avenue Catering | John Little | Scott Milo Gallery |
| Bayshore Office Products | Le Crema Cakes | Sebo's |
| Brian & Candace Geer | Labor Ready | Sheely's |
| Birch Equipment | Laura Dunning | Swinomish Casino |
| Bret Lunsford | Lee & Betty Dawes | The Brown Lantern |
| Fidalgo Dance Works | Mary Staley | Walgreens |
| Gere-A-Deli | Petite Wine Bar | Wallie Funk |
| | Read Me A Story | Wrestlers For Life |

Chamber Cheers
 Caribbean Nights

100-Year Chamber Celebration Dinner-Dance
Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011
5:30pm–11pm
Port of Anacortes Warehouse

Island Casual Caribbean Cocktails

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR:

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Bob Cockburn Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction
October 6, 2011
 Campus Tours: 4:30 pm
 Dinner and Silent Auction: 5:30–8:00 pm
 Historic 1016 Assembly Hall
 at the North Cascades Gateway Center

Proceeds go toward scholarships and work transition grants for Cascade Job Corps graduates.

Tickets: \$35/each available at the chamber.



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ambassador profile

Lara Dunning

Lara Dunning is a mid-west gal whose month long family vacations as a child created a deep love of the West. This fascination lead her to call Alaska home for ten years. The first three years were spent on the Aleutian Chain working for Trident Seafoods as a Fish Meal Plant Operator. The rest were spent in Anchorage where she attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and received her BA in Anthropology in 1999. While finalizing her graduate studies at SUNY Buffalo

Lara received a phone call from her long time friend Farah Ally who asked her join her in Anacortes to work for the family company. The desire to move back west and work with her good friend was an instant draw and she accepted the multi-hat management job for GEMS, LLC in 2006. In the spring of 2006 her duties expanded to include managing the daily operations of Star Bar, which also involved being involved in the Restaurant Trade Association and participating in various

events such as the Spring Wine Festival, Anacortes Chamber Business After Hours and Schmoozefair.



Outside of work Lara can be found sitting at her computer writing away on her young adult novels, posting on her blog, playing Mah Jong at the Senior Center or shaking it at Zumba class. Lara has volunteered her time at the Samish Native Art Gallery and the Skagit Symphony. Presently she is a member of the Anacortes Oktoberfest Committee, Anacortes Chamber Ambassador, Anacortes Public Library Love at the Library Committee, Savvy Gals of A-Town and co-founder of Fidalgo Island Writers Guild.

December Artwalk Reminder

The year is quickly gaining momentum with the Holidays just around the corner. Chamber Holiday Artwalk is December 2nd and 3rd
Please sign up to participate by contacting
Kathy Khile at Scott Milo Gallery 360-293-6938

new members

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Workboat Congratulations

Congratulations Work Boat Race winners!! A generous thank you to the participants of the workboat races, your time, talent and resources were so greatly appreciated. A heartfelt thank you to the Port of Anacortes for your continued efforts in organizing the event and support of the Seafarers Memorial Fund.



Anacortes, Washington

Island RETREAT

Antique & Vintage Market
October 29
 9 AM - 4 PM

RetreatVintageMarket.com

Indoors at the PORT Event Center
 100 Commercial Ave. Anacortes

30 Vendors of Antiques,
 Vintage & Handmade Goods, & Food!

Early Buying Entry 9 AM . \$5
 General Entry 10 AM - 4 PM . \$3
(formerly 'the Island Chicks Show')

Oktoberfest continued from page 1

in the festival food court.

2011 Anacortes Oktoberfest will offer visitors the opportunity to enter the event beginning Friday evening from 5pm-9pm, and return on Saturday 12pm-6pm to finish the tour they embarked upon the night before!

The event will be held at the Port's Transit Shed Event Center, located at 1st & Commercial in downtown Anacortes, allowing for spectacular views overlooking the Guemes Channel and Mount Baker.

30 Breweries, costume contest, live music, yummy German food, and fun! fun! fun! Oh and did we mention beer?

We would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2011 Anacortes Oktoberfest Bier on the Pier without their support great events like this would not be possible! Anacortes Oktoberfest October 7th & 8th.

Festivities kick off
Friday, October 7, 2011,
5:00pm to 9pm.
Saturday, October 8, 2011,
12:00 noon to 6:00 pm.

Barrel

Birch Equipment

Keg

- Anacortes American
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- Swinomish Casino
- The Brown Lantern Ale House
- The Whale AM 1340
- Trident Seafoods
- Whidbey Island Bank

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vic (visitor information center) statistics

	Aug. 2011	Aug. 2010		Aug. 2011	Aug. 2010
Visitors	2,770	2,927	Relocation Requests	16	19
Phone Calls	470	472	Web Visits	14,531	11,373
Information Requests	86	28	Web Page Views	45,421	42,364

Thank you, volunteers! Volunteer Hours: 240 Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org



October 7th & 8th
Friday 5 pm to 9 pm Saturday 12 pm to 6 pm

Anacortes
Oktoberfest
BIER ON THE PIER

\$20/day in advance
\$25/day at the door
\$35/two day pass in advance
\$45/two day pass at the door

30 Breweries - Two Days
at the Port Warehouse 1st and Commercial
Meet the Brewers & Taste the Beer - German Food Vendors & Live Music
Wear your Dirndl & Lederhosen for a chance to win best "German Costume"
Tickets at www.anacortes.org

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