



THE ANACORTES COMMUNICATOR

The Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Volume 20 / Issue 10

calendar

- Tuesday, October 5** 3:00 pm
Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 7** 11:45 am
Ambassador Lunch Meeting
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, October 12** 2:45 pm
Membership Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 14** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Presidents Luncheon
Anacortes Lutheran Church
- Thursday, October 14** 3:45 pm
Governmental Affairs Division Meeting
Chamber Office
- Friday, October 15** 10:30 am
Finance/Executive Meeting
Chamber Office
- Tuesday, October 19** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Board of Directors Annual Retreat
- Thursday, October 21** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Business After Hours
Bayshore Office Products
- Tuesday, October 26** 9:00 am
VIC Meeting
Chamber Office
- Thursday, October 28** 4:00 pm
Economic Development Division Meeting
Chamber Office

presidents luncheon

Candidates Luncheon

The chamber is hosting our annual candidate lunch on October 14 from 11:30–1:00 at the Lutheran Church (22nd & O Streets). This President’s Luncheon provides members with an excellent opportunity to familiarize with a wide variety of state and local races. The format is open, with each candidate afforded 3–5 minutes to talk about themselves, their campaign, reasons for running, accomplishments in office, etc.

The following candidates have committed to attend: Bailey & Riggs (Leg Dist 10—Pos #2); Lytton & Newman (Leg Dist 40—Pos #1); Morris & Swapp (Leg Dist 40—Pos #2); Anderson & Dillon (County Commissioner); Munks & Omdal (County Assessor); and Oberg & Reichardt (County Sheriff). The Rossi, Koster, and Larsen campaigns are still firming up schedules and these candidates may take part.

Please plan on attending the President’s Luncheon and get informed on the candidates and the issues. As always, your vote counts. RSVP to the chamber office (293-7911) or reserve and purchase tickets on line (www.anacortes.org).

The luncheon is sponsored by **Swinomish Casino**. *Play, Eat, and Laugh at Swinomish Casino!* Home of the loosest slots in the Northwest, with over 700 slot machines, table games, poker room, Keno room, and bingo hall. Restaurants include the Two Salmon Café, Swinomish Deli, Cave Bar and Starlight Lounge. Upcoming events and promotions are available online at SwinomishCasino.com or by calling 888-288-8883.



business after hours

Bayshore Anniversary

Since 1985, **Bayshore Office Products** has been serving the people of Anacortes and the surrounding communities. More than retailers of quality office supplies and locally-made and national-brand furniture, they are also a full-line Kyocera office machines dealer, with an award-winning range of printers, copiers, scanners, and faxes. Stop by their copy center for fast black-and-white and color copying and printing, wide-format/blueprint services, business cards and stationery, and giclée fine arts printing—all supported by their friendly staff and in-house graphic designer. With fast, free delivery, Bayshore has everything under one roof to be the local source for all your office needs.

Join us to celebrate Bayshore’s 25th Anniversary at the Business After Hours on Thursday, October 21 from 5:30–7:00 pm. Please RSVP to the chamber at 293-7911.



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a message from the president

New Businesses Coming to Anacortes

It is always a disappointment to see empty storefronts in Anacortes, especially in a tough economy. It could be that a business did not make it, or the owners decided to take a different direction.

I am pleased to report that we have a number of new businesses and restaurants planning to open in the downtown area occupying most of the now empty storefronts. The owners of the Cheesecake Factory decided to focus their efforts on their business at the Ferry Terminal and moved out of their downtown location. A new creperie will be opening in this space, managed by two local entrepreneurs that are familiar faces in the Anacortes restaurant business. The former La Vie En Rose bakery space looks like it will have a new life as a restaurant. Open retail space in the restored Wilson Building may soon be transformed into a bakery. During our recent survey of local residents and visitors to Anacortes the interest in a bakery came up in the top five requests. Several bakeries have come and gone in Anacortes. Let's hope the community can provide the support for this new business.

By now you have probably heard about the agreement where the city contracted to sell water to a new company, Tethys. They are looking to develop a contract beverage bottling plant that will bring hundreds of new jobs to the March Point area. While there are still many hurdles for this venture to face, this shows the potential Anacortes has to attract business thanks to its assets of industrial land, power, rail service, a deep harbor, access to highways and an abundant supply of water to sell. While this plant may take several years to develop and build, the promise of new jobs in this economy and water revenue for the city is very promising.

An opportunity like the Tethys plant brings up the need for the proper mix of housing in Anacortes in the near future. It would be a shame to attract hundreds of new jobs only to have no room in the community

for the new families to live here in homes they can afford. This is one of the many issues that will be discussed in the upcoming AFP Community Input sessions, starting on October 14th. As a business leader in Anacortes, your voice is very important and we hope you attend and participate in this important process to develop the future plan for our community.

Anacortes businesses did well during our summer season. Normally our tourism business slows down after the Oyster Run. This year we are supporting and promoting several events to attract visitors in October. The chamber has worked with the Marine Trades group to promote the Anacortes Boat Show on October 1-3. On October 9th, stop by the 1st Annual Anacortes Oktoberfest—"Beer on the Pier," where 30 micro-breweries from around the region will offer tastes amongst music and food at the Port's Transit Shed. We expect this to be a very popular event—on a par with the chamber's Spring Wine Festival—which will bring many visitors to town to eat in our restaurants and spend the night in our hotels and motels. On October 16th we are promoting the Anacortes Film Festival at the Anacortes Cinema—also a new event for the community and film buffs who would like to come to our city for a weekend.

October brings a new transition. The

chamber board will be having their annual retreat on October 19th. We will be looking hard at how we can support Anacortes businesses further and we welcome any thoughts and ideas you may have.

On November 1st, the chamber starts its new fiscal year which we will celebrate with our Chamber Cheers event on November 6th. The board changed the fiscal year to better align with our activities and to allow the new board and divisions time for planning the new year's activities. Mark Bunzel will be taking my place as President starting November 1. Under Mark's leadership the chamber will build on our programs and successes from this past year. I am very proud of what we accomplished and look forward to our continued support for Anacortes and your businesses in 2011.

*Mike Trafton
President*



All Retail Meeting October 7, 8:30 a.m.

The Retail Division invites and encourages all retailers, citywide, to attend a gathering on Thursday, October 7th, 8:30 a.m., in the chamber boardroom.

In order to determine retailers' goals for the coming year, input is needed for programs, advertising and all aspects that benefit your business. Please R.S.V.P. to the chamber office.



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member profile

Anacortes Beads

Marsha and Howard Ross, owners of Anacortes Beads & Crafts, have retired twice! The first retirement ended when they bought a ranch in the Sierra Mountains and sold Tennessee Walking Horses. In 2007, they retired once again, sold their ranch, and bought a motor home so that they could travel. They stayed in Anacortes for two weeks on their way to Alaska and fell in love.

After travelling 18,000 miles the first year (to Alaska for the summer and to Puerto Vallarta for the winter), Marsha decided that they should return to Anacortes for the next summer. They also discovered that they didn't enjoy travelling as much as they thought they would and felt that they needed to have a "home base."

Marsha and Howard arrived in Anacortes in August, 2008, and immediately got involved in the local beading, jewelry-making, and crafts community. By November, they had opened Anacortes Beads & Crafts in

its present location at 1717 Commercial Avenue, and had become firmly ensconced in the Anacortes community. When Marsha and Howard started the business, their only goal was to make it a "happy" place to bead. Now, Anacortes Beads has developed into a full-service bead store, offering an amazing collection of beads and jewelry-making supplies, and earning much praise from its customers. They also offer lots of innovative and interesting classes.

Marsha and Howard LOVE being a part of Anacortes! They are still full-time RV-ers, residing at Pioneer Trails, but they spend their winters in Puerto Vallarta. Their store is open year around, thanks to their experienced, very caring staff.

One of the most interesting things about



Marsha and Howard is that they raised African lions. They had a fully-licensed training facility in California and had one male lion named Rudy that actually lived in their home with them for 13 years. They have many pictures of Rudy at their store, and love to share "lion" stories with their customers. Marsha is currently writing a book about their experiences with Rudy.

October Anacortes Futures Project Update

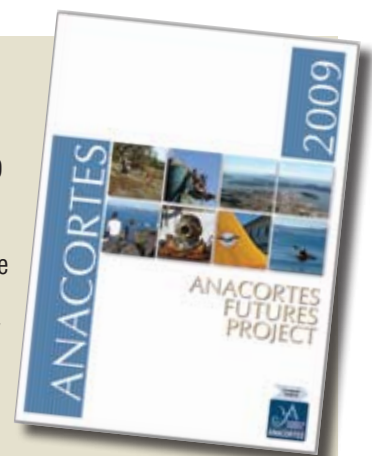
The AFP Steering Committee met with Makers, our consultant, the first week of September to set parameters for the remainder of the year. As a result of this meeting, three public input sessions were scheduled. The Community Kick-Off meeting will be held on October 14 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the new Marine Trades Center conference hall. The focus of this meeting will be (1) to educate community members on past study efforts and the current goals of the AFP; (2) introduce the project, reviewing goals, work steps, schedule, and opportunities for continued community involvement; and (3) embark on a visioning exercise to garner meaningful input. There will then be two

follow-on meetings, which will incorporate initial input. These will be held on November 9 and December 9, both from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Marine Trades Center.

In a nutshell, the premise of this project: ensure economic sustainability through 2025, while at the same time maintaining our community's quality of life. "Sustainability" addresses the city's ability to maintain and continue to fund the services that citizens have come to expect. "Quality of Life" addresses the livability of our town—our culture and environment.

Please plan on attending these sessions and giving your opinion. The chamber has committed significant budget resour-

es—\$12,500 in 2010 and \$25,000 in 2011—to see this project to fruition by July of next year. We want to hear from members and use your input to formulate a meaningful strategic plan and vision for the next 15 years. Any questions or comments, please contact Mitch at the chamber office.



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Realtor City-Wide Open House

Anacortes' realty community will hold their second city-wide open house of the season on October 16 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. It is expected that there will be 50+ open houses along the full spectrum of housing, including condos, new construction, Victorians in Old Town, view homes,

and waterfront. Local lenders will participate. This event is being widely marketed in Seattle metro and is expected to bring a variety of out-of-town buyers.

Please contact Jean Groesbeck at 941-3734 or jean@coldwellbanker.com for more information.

Left: Barry Harter (Central Payment Services), Josh Baldwin (Quantum Construction) and Lisa Selfridge (Maritime's Marine Center) get to know each other at the September Business Connections Lunch.

Below: Leah Hines (Skagit Publishing), Heather and Matt Miller (Read Me A Story), Farah Ally (GEMS, Inc.), Sandra Benton (IMPR), Lara Dunning (GEMS, Inc.) and Shahnaz Ally-Gard (GEMS, Inc.) at the September Business After Hours.



Ribbon Cutting at Island Internal Medicine

October 6, 5:00–7:00 pm
912 32nd Street

Our Mission is to provide comprehensive internal medicine and primary care to Anacortes, La Conner and surrounding areas. Our focus is to provide scientifically based, up-to-date, personalized medical care. We recognize the rights and responsibilities of individuals to participate in the process of their health care needs. We also recognize that our medical providers and our employees are vital resources.

Island Internal Medicine just built a 5,000 square ft. office (called the 32nd Street Medical Building) in conjunction with Dr. Debbie Amos, at 912 32nd Street. Dr. Llewellyn started this practice on April 1, 2001. We grew from one provider to seven over the last nine years and are looking to add one more. Internal Medicine is a broad primary care specialty which focuses on adult medical problems.

member announcements

"Ten" at Rockfish

The Rockfish Grill is celebrating its 10th anniversary by releasing a new brew "Ten," on 10/10/10. With a proven philosophy of "Local Food, Local Beer, Made Here," the Rockfish has become one of the most popular restaurants in Skagit County. Along the way they have been voted "Best of Anacortes" ten years running by the readers of the Anacortes American.



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Anacortes Hosts 30 Breweries in State's Largest Oktoberfest

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce kicks off an inaugural beer festival on Saturday, October 9 from 12:00-6:00 p.m. at the Port Warehouse in Anacortes. Anacortes Oktoberfest—"Beer on the Pier"—features 30 regional brewers and 60 total selections—the event promises to be a highlight for beer lovers. The \$20 entry fee entitles attendees to six pours; additional pours may be purchased for \$1.50 each. The event will also feature live music and a variety of food vendors. For those staying over, there will be music in local venues on Saturday evening.

Event co-organizer Rick Star of Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery stated: "Through our business, we attend many beer festivals throughout the Northwest each year. Our goal with the Anacortes Oktoberfest was to take the best elements of each, provide patrons with a host of choices, and build the event into an enjoyable experience for brewers and attendees alike. Gauged by brewery participation, the event will be the largest Oktoberfest in Washington State, providing event-goers with an opportunity to meet-and-greet brewers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. We look forward to building a wonderful recurring festival—one that people will want to return to year after year."

For complete details, visit www.anacortes.org.



The chamber would like to thank our wonderful sponsor partners:

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Whidbey Island Bank
Windermere Real Estate
Wizards of Ooze

Friends of the Festival:

Steve & Linda Wilhoit

Anacortes Film Festival and Metropolitan Opera Simulcasts

Chamber member **Anacortes Cinema** has two events on the horizon that members should be aware of. The first is the inaugural **Anacortes Film Festival**, which will be held on Saturday, October 16. This event brings together a wide range of genres on three screens at the theater. The current plan is to offer youth films in the morning, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and running through approximately 1:00 p.m. Foreign films will then take over, from 1:00 p.m. to mid-afternoon. Action, romance and comedy films will then fill out the bill, with the last showings completed around 11:30 p.m. Directors and actors will be on hand prior to the showings to discuss the production, provide insight, and answer questions. The chamber coordinated funding through the 2% hotel/motel grant process to assist with advertising this event. Please take advantage of the opportunity to see great new independent films and be educated about how they were made.

The second initiative that Anacortes Cinema has put forward involves **monthly simulcasts of Metropolitan Opera productions**, beginning October 9. This has required installation of a high-definition projector and an upgrade of the theater's sound system, resulting in a high-quality viewing experience. The plan is to also offer upgraded concessions during these telecasts (though popcorn will still be available!) Note: while the new projector can't be used during regular movie presentations, it is available for custom showings. These may include simulcasts of rock concerts, cultural events, and other items of interest. Please direct any questions to Anacortes Cinema (293-6620).



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- Lovric's Sea-Craft, Inc.
- John R. Lucke
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- Orca Information
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- Penguin Coffee LLC
- pflynn+associates
- ProScapes, Inc.
- Aaron M. Rasmussen, Attorney at Law
- Simply Yards Landscape and Design
- Total Home Services
- Tri Mariye, LLC
- Underwood & Associates, LLC

To all our customers and friends:

Thank You!

Please join us for Business After Hours
Thursday, October 21, 5:30-7:00 pm

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thanks...

Thanks to the following members for donating to the Business After Hours in September:

- Alice Bohnker Insurance
- Bank of the Pacific
- Blush Custom Floral
- Chandler's Square — A Retirement Community
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
- Barry Harter — Central Payment
- IMPR
- Islands Inn
- Lighthouse Park RV Park & Mini Storage
- Read Me A Story
- Salon Bella Bella
- Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association

Thanks to the following businesses for donating to the September Business Connections Lunch:

- Bayside Specialties
- Express Employment Professionals
- Manpower
- Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association
- Take Shape for Life

Did you know...

If you send friends or relatives to stay at Autumn Leaves B&B, you may have breakfast with them for free!



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This year's *Chamber Cheers – It's A Wonderful Life in Anacortes* will celebrate our beautiful community as we honor the commitment of our leaders. The committee has been busy planning an evening full of surprises you are sure to enjoy.

Promotion through sponsorship is available at various levels, this helps keep our ticket prices low—\$40 per person for a full dinner, a commemorative photo and dancing.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 6th, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm at the Historic Port of Anacortes Warehouse.

Trick or Treat October 30

In tandem with our friends at **Village Pizza**, the chamber of commerce will be sponsoring downtown trick or treating on Saturday, October 30 from 1:00–4:00 p.m., open to all children 12 and under, who must be accompanied by an adult.

The event will culminate at Village Pizza at 4:00 p.m., with pizza bites and prizes for the most imaginative costumes. Parents will also get treated to a free portrait of their trick or treater at KP Studio. We will be distributing window placards to all participating merchants the week before the event (who should definitely stock up on candy, as volumes have increased over the past several years). We are also looking for prizes, which we will acknowledge at the contest—please contact the chamber office if interested.

brown bag series



Small Business Opportunities in the New Economy

Friday, October 8
12:00 noon
Chamber Office

Presented by
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This unique opportunity will offer you savvy strategies to leverage your small business equity and enhance your personal financial picture. You will learn about the changing tax environment beginning in 2011 and the strategies that you can implement immediately to manage your tax bracket and build net worth.

Topics will cover cash ladder management, section 179 capital purchases, healthcare legislation, estate tax planning, retirement planning, Roth IRA conversion opportunities, alternative investment benefits, employee loyalty programs and lots more in a very informative and open get-together that you won't want to miss.

Looking to achieve financial independence? Why not harness the energy and resources of your small business to enhance your personal goals?



ACT season announced

Chamber member **Anacortes Community Theatre** has announced their 2011 season. Productions, dates, and directors appear below. Season tickets are available through the theatre (293-6829) at a cost of \$85 each.

Show	Dates	Director
Romeo and Juliet	Jan 28-Feb 19	Tim Brown
Oklahoma!	Mar 25-Apr 23	Judy Crane
The Servant of Two Masters	June 3-25	Martin Iverson
Whose Wives are they Anyway?	Jul 29-Aug 20	Melissa Bridges
Chicago!	Sept 23-Oct 22	Jan Trumble
Over the River and Through the Woods	Nov 26-Dec 18	Dottie Morgan

Did you know...

Elisabeth's Cottage by the Sea has the world's largest turquoise carving on display, weighing in at 121 pounds?

chamber officers

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John Pope *Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.*

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Rick Star *Rockfish Grill*

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Mitch Everton *Executive Director*

Stephanie Hamilton *Program & Events Director*

Mary Talosi *Visitor Information & Operations Director*

Danielle Codara *Office Coordinator*

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vic (visitor information center) statistics

	August 2010	August 2009	August 2010	August 2009
Visitors	2927	2940	Relocation Requests	19
Phone Calls	472	533	Web Visits	11,373
Information Requests	28	40	Web Page Views	43,364

Thank you, volunteers!

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