

Anacortes Communicator



A Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Volume 1 / Issue 2

Calendar

February 2005

- February 3
President's Luncheon, noon
RSVP required, 293-7911
- February 4
First Friday Gallery Walk
293-6938
- February 10
Chamber Ambassador Lunch
11:45 a.m. at Sasso's
- February 15
Executive Board, 2:30 p.m.
Combined Board, 3:45 p.m.
- February 16
Business After Hours
Fidalgo Bay RV Resort
- February 22
VIC Meeting, 9 a.m.
- Feb. 1 - Feb. 19
Anacortes Community Theater
presents "The Mousetrap" by
Agatha Christie. All tickets \$14;
(360) 293-6829

Chamber mission

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to improving the business and community life of Anacortes.

Mayor Maxwell presents 'state of city'

Anacortes Mayor Dean Maxwell will deliver his annual "State of the City" address Thursday, February 3 at the President's Luncheon.



Mayor
Dean Maxwell

Mayor Maxwell said his report will note concern related to "a storm of restricted revenue," but he said the City of Anacortes remains financially healthy.

"The City of Anacortes continues to maintain strong restricted emergency reserves for each of our departments, in addition to a prudent fund balance in our general fund," said Maxwell. "We have had 'unqualified' financial audits for 22 straight years."

The mayor also reports that over the past 12 years, the city has attracted 30-plus businesses creating 1,400 new jobs in the business sector east of "R" Avenue. Among those businesses are Northern Marine, San Juan Composites, SHS.com and North Harbor Diesel.

The luncheon, sponsored by Verizon Superpages and SuperPages.com (see page two), takes place at the Salvation Army Anacortes Corps headquarters, 3001 "R" Avenue. It is open to all Chamber members and their guests.

Call the Chamber at 293-7911 to make reservations, \$15 per ticket (please have your credit card ready when you call; cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance to avoid full billing).

February Business After Hours will take place at Fidalgo Bay Resort

See some of the dramatic improvements under way at Fidalgo Bay Resort when the Samish Tribal Nation hosts the Business After Hours event Thursday, February 17, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Resort Manager Bob Shepard and tribal officials provided a peek at resort expansion plans on January 22 when the city conducted a ribbon-cutting to officially open Tommy Thompson Parkway. The 3.8-mile public path runs through the resort on Weaverling Spit, connecting to an abandoned Burlington Northern trestle that is being prepared for public access.

Tribal plans call for expansion of the existing resort clubhouse to create the Fidalgo Bay Resort Community Convention Center. The new facility will be available to the public. The remodel will also feature a tribal meeting place upstairs, with a sweeping view of Fidalgo Bay.

At the January 22 event, Samish Vice Chairman Tom Wooten noted that the resort was once the site of a tribal village.



Fidalgo Bay Resort is in the midst of a construction project that will feature a new community convention center.

Call the Chamber today, 293-7911, to RSVP for the After Hours event. Let the Chamber know at the same time if you would like to provide a door prize, and when you arrive on February 17, don't forget to bring your business cards.



Message from the Executive Director

Get involved with your Chamber today

There is no slowing down at your Anacortes Chamber of Commerce! After returning from their two-day annual planning session, this year in White Rock, B.C., the Chamber Board of Directors has laid out their work plans for the year.

Building on the solid accomplishments of 2004, the board and staff are focused on enhancing member services and benefits, increasing the effectiveness of communications, growing the membership, furthering economic development efforts, strengthening strategic partnerships, expanding community events and continuing community beautification efforts.

To accomplish these goals the Chamber will incorporate the latest technologies and apply good old fashioned elbow grease.

Numerous times have I heard Anacortes called "a diamond in the rough". Well, it's time to get polishing! There are numerous committees in place to tackle the work ahead, but they need the support and participation of the membership and the community in general. This is a great time to get involved and be a part of the success story.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt said "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

Join us won't you? Call the Chamber today to see what opportunities lay ahead. Your investment will be rewarded.



Michael Broome
Executive Director

Verizon sponsors President's Luncheon on February 3rd

Verizon Information Services is sponsor of the February President's Luncheon featuring Mayor Dean Maxwell.

Verizon Information Services is a content provider for communications products and services, with approximately \$4.1 billion in revenues. The



company produces Verizon SuperPages, the nation's leading yellow pages, and Verizon SuperPages.com (www.SuperPages.com), the nation's #1 Internet directory and shopping resource.

SuperPages On the Go is the best information directory offered on Get It Now services through Verizon Wireless and other carriers. The company also is

the largest publisher of Hispanic directories in the U.S. and the first to provide a Hispanic online shopping resource (www.SuperPages.com/espanol).

Verizon is a leader in community support, fund donations, volunteer hours and in-kind services in its communities. Verizon Information Services is a unit of Verizon Communications Inc. (www.verizon.com).

For more information, contact Krishna Mathison, Regional Area Manager, Verizon Yellow Pages & SuperPages.com, 360-428-7653, krishna.f.mathison@verizon.com



If you are reading this, so are other Chamber members. Wait! They could be reading about your business instead!

Call the Chamber today for advertising rates in The Anacortes Communicator, 293-7911.



Downtown Doings



January 21 "block party" on Commercial Ave.

City, county and business people gathered on a sun-splashed Commercial Avenue Friday, January 21 to acknowledge completion of another downtown Anacortes block upgrade.

At a rate of about one block per year, the City of Anacortes has completed dramatic block improvements including elements ranging from sidewalk extensions to street lamps and decorative trees.

Completed this year at a cost of \$164,643 was the block between 4th and 5th streets.

Anacortes Mayor Dean Maxwell presided over the ribbon-cutting event, accompanied by District One County Commissioner Don Munks and City Council member Nick Petrish. Chamber representatives in attendance included President Pam Allen, President-Elect Bill Berry, Secretary Jean Fantini and Executive Director Michael Broome.

Mayor Maxwell extended thanks to area merchants for their cooperation and patience during the project. He thanked Commissioner Munks for two county grants totaling \$70,000. He also introduced city employee Steve Lange, who served as manager on the project.

Acknowledgements on the project included Island Construction Site and Utilities, Inc., general contractor; Schwetz Construction, concrete; PSE/Intolight, street lighting and plant hangers; Leonard Boudinot and Skodje, design; Olympic Foundry, tree frames and grates.

City hosts dedication of new Tommy Thompson Parkway

Anyone who has ever played Monopoly recognizes the name "Park Place," one of the most valuable properties on the way to financial success.

Today Anacortes boasts a precious "Parkway" property that promises to play an immediate role in the business and recreational life of this island community.

Dozens of people including government, tribal and business leaders gathered Saturday, January 22 for the official opening of Tommy Thompson Parkway, a 3.8-mile public parkway that links downtown Anacortes with March's Point.

The parkway, which winds along the

tions who worked together for more than a decade to make the parkway a reality.

City Parks and Recreation Director Gary Robinson, who was responsible for negotiating purchase of the former rail-line property from Burlington Northern, hailed the opening of the parkway as "a team effort — a great project that was a whole lot of fun to be associated with." He paid tribute to Thompson, telling the crowd: "I have never met a man with more passion and drive."

Speakers included Jon Soine, who represented the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Association. This organization

contributed more than \$400,000 to the project.

Another speaker was Samish Indian Nation Vice Chairman Tom Wooten, who noted the tribe had lived, worked and played on the Fidalgo Island shoreline "for time immemorial."

"Our ancestors tell us to welcome you all here," said Wooten. "It's a wonderful day, a great day for Anacortes and everyone here."

County Commissioner Don Munks, whose family homesteaded property across the bay on March's Point, recalled walking the path on journeys to and from town. He wore his

Anacortes High School letter jacket in memory of those days of his youth.

Despite gray skies and light rain, dozens including Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michael Broome were drawn to the early afternoon event. Among businesses represented at the ribbon-cutting were the Skagit Cycle Center and Island Outfitters.



Anne Thompson had the honors of cutting the ribbon to officially open Tommy Thompson Parkway, a shoreline trail that will extend from downtown Anacortes to Fidalgo Bay and March's Point. Photo courtesy of Bob Shepard, Fidalgo Bay Resort.

city's Fidalgo Bay shoreline, is named after the late Tommy Thompson, a narrow gauge railway creator who dreamed of running his train along the Fidalgo Island shoreline. The Thompson family was represented by Tommy's widow, Anne, and one of their sons.

City Mayor Dean Maxwell expressed thanks to many individuals and organiza-



Featured Business

City Tree Service

After almost two decades of work as a high-lead logger, Dakota Barnes transitioned into a new career as owner of City Tree Services. For the past three years he has operated in Anacortes, offering a full range of services from pruning and low-maintenance landscaping to tree removal.

Dakota, whose career includes stints with Weyerhaeuser and Miller Shingle, moved to Anacortes from the Upper Skagit area in response to demand for his services.

His clients range from homeowners to construction companies. All draw from his experience and benefit also from the fact that he owns the largest boom truck in the area. He was a climber for eight years in too, and he still pulls on his cork boots if



Dakota Barnes of City Tree Service volunteers to put up a community Christmas tree each year.

the situation calls for it.

"I help people figure out which trees to retain, and which are at risk to come down," said Dakota. "We do some limbing for view and some crown reduction to make a safer tree."

Dakota notes: "Now is the time to do your pruning."

For more information call Dakota at 360-202-6369.

Downtown Arch fund drive closes on goal

At the 98 percent mark of their fund-raising goal, members of the Arch Committee have extended the deadline for sponsorships to Friday, April 1. Bricks start at \$45 and sponsorships start at \$250.

Fund-raising volunteer Cory Hunter reports that orders for sidewalk tiles in the first "wave" of installation is February 15, with blank tiles to be replaced in subsequent waves until all 400 are in place.

"If everything goes according to plan," said Hunter, "we will see the arch erected sometime in April. We've had a lot of community support. It's been so gratifying to see a consistent, steady flow of support, with donations arriving in the mail each week."

City block improvements that will ultimately include the arch start this month.

Think Shipwreck Day, Waterfront Festival

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2005 Waterfront Festival, reports Event Coordinator Beth Prins. The 2005 poster will be unveiled in March at the Business After Hours event.

Act now to submit an application to sell your wares at the 2005 Shipwreck Day, Saturday, July 16. Call Beth at 293-7911 if you have questions regarding either event.



**910
11th St.
Anacortes
293-5574**

Fresh sandwiches, soups, salads and smoothies for dine-in or take-out.

Leadership training in Tuscon



Chamber Executive Michael Broome (standing, far left) poses with classmates during a week-long "Institute for Organizational Management" in Tuscon, Arizona. Broome is in his second year of the four-year program produced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Chamber Member News Notes

The **February Gallery Walk** is February 4 from 6 – 9 p.m. We welcome Lorraine Beegle and Sharon Dillon from the Keystone Center as gallery walk participants.

711 Commercial Ave., Anne Martin McCool Gallery
The gallery will continue its show featuring pottery by Marguerite Goff's raku pottery, new paintings by Anne Martin McCool and work by other gallery artists.

619 Commercial Ave., 2nd Floor, Lorraine Beegle Studio & Sharon Dillon Studio
Beegle's studio is featuring impressionistic landscapes and seascapes in oil by Mark Bistranin. Bistranin's paintings capture Skagit Valley and San Juan Island reflective light with bold strokes and rich color. Dillon is featuring a new selection of "Sun Signs" with large acrylic paintings and sculptures.

516 Commercial Ave., Insights Gallery
The gallery is featuring new works by gallery artists, Alfred Currier, Anne Schreivogl and many more.

510 Commercial Ave., Adrift
Opening a new show of photography by local photographers.

420 Commercial Ave., Scott Milo Gallery
The gallery opens a new show with color photographs by Randy Dana. Also showing are new watercolors by Keith Sorenson, pen & ink drawings by Michael Stark, large format photography by Dick Garvey, oils by Diane Ainsworth, paintings by Jennifer Bowman and work by Annette Tamm, Jeff and Donna Tousley, James Rea.

416 ½ Commercial Ave., Star Bar Café
The café is showing "A photographic glimpse of Nepal and Tibet," by Gregg Storwick of Anacortes and acrylic by Barbara Perry with the theme, "An artist in search of a style."

611 R Ave, Gallery at the Depot
Opening a new show with the theme "Red." The artists include Michael Wirth, neon artist; Georgia Johnson, poet; Kathleen Faulkner, jeweler; April Richardson, monotypes; Sue Roberts, sculptor; Cathy Schoenberg, painter; Michael Clough, painter; Carol Merrick, mixed media and more. The show is sponsored by the Washington State Arts Commission, US Forestry Service, Target and wine tasting by Compass Wines.

801 5th Street, Bowman Gallery
Enhanced photography by Marius Hibbard.

The **Rockfish Grill** Entertainment Calendar for the month of February 2005:
2/2 - Jazz Invitational with Frankly Moanin'
2/4 - Gallery Walk with Annieville Blues and Special Guest
2/5 - Rod Cook and Toast
2/9 - Rockfish Hootenanny with the Duntons
2/10 - Geoffrey Castle and Dan Connolly
8 PM / \$7 @ the door
2/12 - Janie Cribbs
2/16 - Jacob Navarro and William Cook
2/18 - The Artie Palm Society
2/19 - Red Hot Blues Sisters
2/23 - Allen Lewis and Fidalgo Swing
2/26 - Scott Lindenmuth Group

Preview:
3/3 - Chicago Blues Man, James Solberg 8 PM / \$7 @ the door

The Rockfish Grill is located at 320 Commercial Avenue.

Membership Renewals

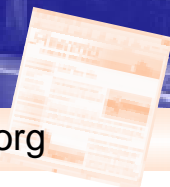
Anacortes American
Anacortes Arts Festival
Anacortes Auto Parts
Anacortes Chocolate Factory /
Gingerbread Cafe
Anacortes Community Theatre
Anacortes Inn
Anacortes Plumbing
Anacortes Senior Center
Anacortes Yacht Charters
B & B Association of San Juan Island
Buer's Floral and Gifts
Cap Sante Court
Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
Cascade Natural Gas
Chicago Title Company
Island Division
City of Anacortes
Concrete Nor'West

Cyber One Mortgage / Interior
Art Design
Dakota Creek Industries
David Cortelyou
Fidalgo Chevron
Fidalgo Medical Associates
Horizon Bank
Island Transport Ferry Service
James E. Anderson P.S.
KBRC / KAPS Radio
KP Studios
Left Bank Antiques
Maison et Jardin
Marine Servicenter Inc.
Orcas Lodging Association
Peoples Bank
Peratrovich, Nottingham & Drage Inc
Public Utility District #1
of Skagit County

Reisner Distributor
RIS Insurance
Ron Smith & Associates
Roxy Seligman
San Juan Lanes Stork's Restaurant
San Juan Motel
Scott Richards Insurance, Inc.
Secret Harbor School
Sheely's Floral & Gifts
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Simmonds Glass
Simply Yards
Skagit State Bank
The Dish
Tracys
Trust Accounting Center
Upstage Boutique & Men's Store
Viking Moving Services, Inc
Vintage Investments, Inc
Wallgren Tire Center/Les Schwab
Washington Federal Savings
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Windermere Real Estate



Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org



VIC Statistics

Thank You, Volunteers!
DECEMBER 2004

Visitors 640 (626 - 2003)
Phone Calls 256 (216 - 2003)
Information Requests 18 (34 - 2003)
Relocation Requests 22 (26 -2003)
Web Sessions 12,564 (11,571 - 2003)

Executive Board

Executive Board

President
Pam Allen / Anaco Bay Inn
President-Elect
Bill Berry / KLKI AM 1340
Secretary
Jean Fantini / Donatello Flowers & Gifts
Treasurer
Vince Oliver / Island Hospital
Immediate Past President
Randy Burgess / Ace Hardware
Executive Director
Michael Broome
Board of Directors
Shane Aggergaard
/ Island Adventure Charters
Tom Wood
/ Shell Puget Sound Refinery

Dianna Chonka / Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
Mike King* / City of Anacortes
Robin Pestarino / AllData Shredding
Dan Porter / Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Nate Scott / Windermere Real Estate / Anacortes
Dan Stahl* / Port of Anacortes
Dave Storkson
/ San Juan Lanes & Stork's Restaurant
Nels Strandberg / Strandberg Construction
Gene Tanaka / T Bailey, Inc.
* Ex-officio

Staff

Executive Director
Michael Broome
Events Coordinator / VIC Manager
Beth Prins
Membership Services
Sue Keller
Accounts Manager
Kathleen Hobbs

Licensing
Sub-agents
April Conger
Kristi Daniels

Newsletter Editor
Steve Berentson

Tourism a vital part of local economy

Tourism, a vital part of this state's economy, is an important economic engine for Skagit County as well.

According to a recent study conducted for the state by Dean Runyan Associates, 2003 travel spending in Skagit County totaled \$179 million, with local tax receipts of \$2.1 million. Travel generated earnings (wages and salary, other earned benefits and proprietor income) were \$45.9 million.

The same study reported that "Although travel impacts are largest in absolute terms in Washington's more populated areas, the significance of the visitor industry to local economies can be very substantial in some of the state's rural areas."

Anacortes, it seems, is a little bit urban ... and a little bit rural.

Rural areas, the report noted, "tend to offer scenic and outdoor recreational opportunities. Campers and vacation home users are important to the local economies in these areas."

Sounds like us, doesn't it?

The report also acknowledged the importance of "day visitors," who "tend to spend a higher proportion of their total spending on retail expenditures." Runyan reported that day visitors represent "a significant economic infusion in cities and counties close to recreational areas, wilderness areas, lakes and beaches."

That sounds like Anacortes, too.

As noted in previous articles about the Chamber's tourism marketing strategy, we have designed a web site to "talk" to potential visitors from around the world. In view of travel trends related to elements such as increased air travel security and rising fuel costs, however, much of our marketing focus is on our neighbors in the Northwest.

Accordingly, we will again partner with Belo Broadcasting - Northwest Cable News and King 5 to extend a regional invitation to Anacortes via 30- and 60-second television commercials.

We will also look to our neighbors to the east, investing a modest amount of time and money in communities including Spokane and Yakima. In partnership with the Skagit County Chambers Executive Directors Association (SCCEDA), for example, we will take part in the 2005 Travel and Adventure Expo in Spokane on February 5, in the wake of the Seattle Travel Show Jan. 29 and 30.

"Because 'backyard travel' is so popular," report Spokane Expo officials, "the show will highlight weekend and local destinations as well as the more exotic."

We look forward to another healthy year of tourism in Anacortes, and will continue to keep you posted on our efforts to boost this important element of our local economy.



Anacortes
Chamber of Commerce
819 Commercial Ave., Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221

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