

Fidalgo Living

Celebrating Life on Fidalgo Island



Leo ZaZa

BREWING THE AMERICAN DREAM

POWERED BY



BEST VERSION MEDIA

Photo by E.J. Harris

EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS

To learn more about becoming an **expert contributor**,
contact us at jbrierley@bestversionmedia.com
or call 360.708.8960



FINANCIAL

Troy Kunz
Edward Jones
360.293.4581
www.edwardjones.com



MARITIME AND TRAILER SERVICES

Isaac Oczkewicz
La Conner Maritime Service
Smiley's Pro Services
360.424.7338
sales@smileysproservices.com



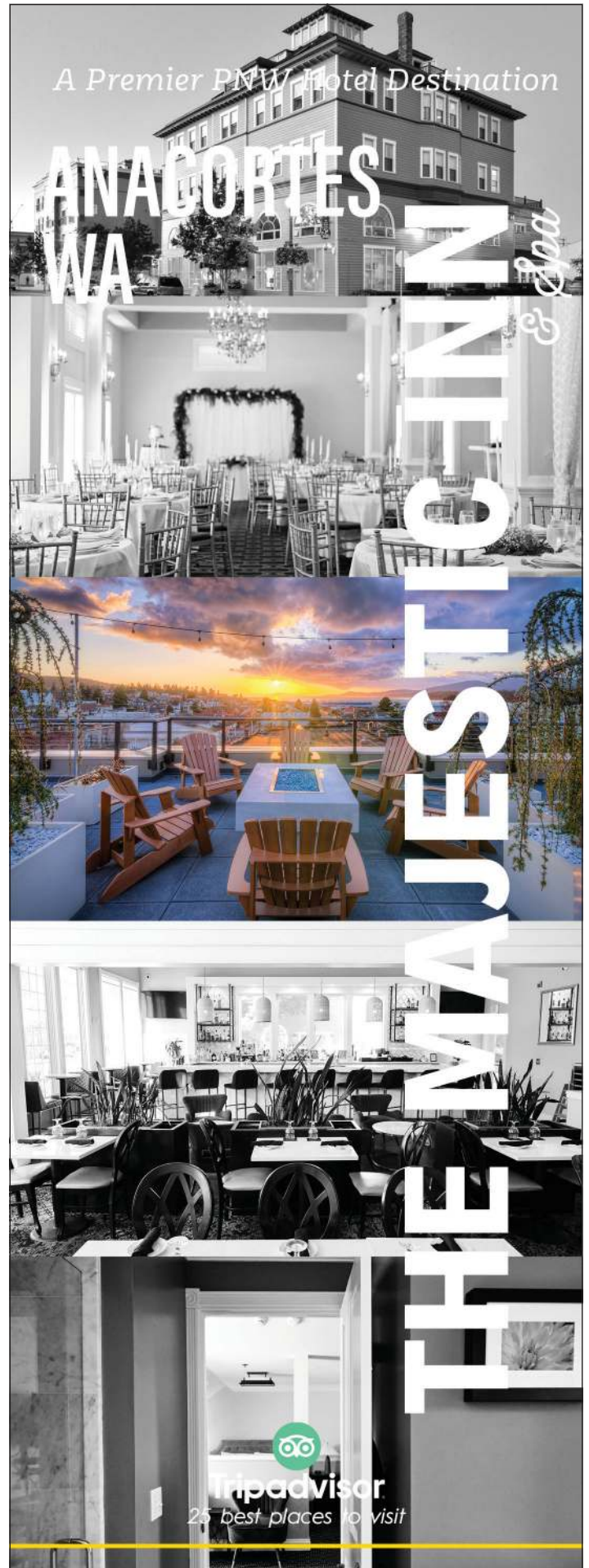
MEDICAL

Laura Moroney
Island Health
360.299.1300
www.islandhospital.org



FITNESS

Christy Schneider
Unstoppable Personal Training
360.840.8481



Fidalgo Living

PUBLICATION TEAM

Publisher | John Brierley
Content Coordinator | Sadie Youngquist
Designer | Marcelle Hockers
Contributing Photographer | E.J. Harris

ADVERTISING

Contact | John Brierley
Phone | 360-708-8960
Email | jbrierley@bestversionmedia.com

FEEDBACK | IDEAS | SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the **15th** of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: jbrierley@bestversionmedia.com or syoungquist@bestversionmedia.com

CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Content Due: April 15.....**Edition Month:** June



Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted, inclusive of materials generated or composed through artificial intelligence (AI). All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2025 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.



DEAR READERS,

First off, a mea culpa. In our recent article about Skagit's Best Salsa, we failed to give full credit to Jill Rohrs. She sent us this comment, *"I am the founder of Skagit's Best Salsa Company. The business was built on my original salsa recipe, and I have been instrumental in guiding and growing it from the very beginning. My leadership, vision, and dedication have shaped the company's success, and it is important that this truth is accurately represented."* Apologies to Jill. Our article was based on the information we received: apparently it was incomplete.

Whether negative or positive, we love to hear from our readers (though the latter is preferred!) A case in point is this month's cover feature, Leo Zaza. A couple of friends mentioned him to me as a likely prospect (thanks Tom & Diane!) Then Mark Backlund, MD sent a detailed letter outlining all the reasons why Leo would make a great candidate. This kind of information really helps in our decision making. Sincere thanks to Mark. So please, keep those recommendations coming: this is a community effort after all.

Cheers,

JOHN BRIERLEY,
Publisher



DEAR RESIDENTS,

This month we feature Leo ZaZa, owner of ZaZa's Turkish Coffee. Leo shares his story of perseverance and dedication to bring his version of the American dream to come to life. After years of hard work, he has made Anacortes his home, where he is not only focused on growing his business but also on establishing roots and building a future, both professionally and personally.

Also in this issue: Gardening tips from Emma Christianson of Christianson's Nursery; Jack Hartt on the significance of Earth Day for our community and youth; Cathy Enns' preview of Anacortes' second annual Earth Day celebration; an inside look at your local public hospital district; an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the annual unconventional runway show; and the latest from our "Correspondent in the Forest", Bob Jepperson.

SADIE YOUNGQUIST,
Content Coordinator





Stowes
 SHOES & CLOTHING
 EST. 1940
Your local footwear experts.



Blundstone BIRKENSTOCK HOKA KEEN MERRELL

420 E FAIRHAVEN AVE, BURLINGTON | 360-755-0570 | MON-SAT 9-6

Leo ZaZa

BREWING THE AMERICAN DREAM

By Sadie Youngquist. Photos by E.J. Harris



The American Dream takes on many forms, whether it's owning a business, climbing the corporate ladder, or raising a family, we all pursue it in our own way. From a small village in Southeast Türkiye to the bustling streets of New York City, Leo ZaZa has overcome significant obstacles to carve out a place for himself in the Anacortes community. For decades, the actor, producer, and entrepreneur navigated various roles in hospitality and entertainment, eventually blending his experience and heritage into creating his own coffee brand and business. "Anybody can have a dream, but you have

to be relentless,” says Leo. “You must be determined. You must be consistent.”

Growing up in Adiyaman, Leo was no stranger to hardship. “We were very poor; we didn’t have power or electricity,” he recalls. As one of nine siblings, Leo quickly learned the importance of family and hard work. From an early age, he appreciated the value of what little they had. Life in the village revolved around farming, growing vegetables, harvesting almonds, and tending oak trees. “By the age of seven, I was already a strong person in the village, responsible for taking over a hundred goats into the mountains and milking them,” he elaborates.

Determined to create a better life for himself and his family, Leo ran away from his village at just 12 years old to pursue better opportunities in Istanbul. “I wanted to do something that would help give my brothers, sisters, and parents a better future,” he explains. His journey to a new life was funded by a special bird called a keklik (partridge), a rare and valuable bird. Catching and selling the bird provided him with just enough money to get to Istanbul. “You had to be incredibly lucky to catch one, and I did,” he adds.

Once in the city, Leo connected and lived with other adults from his village and immediately began working in the restaurant industry as a dishwasher. “I wasn’t even tall enough to reach the sink,” he remembers. “They had to stack up three lemon crates for me to stand on.” Despite the challenges, he juggled work and school, saving every penny he could to send back to his family. Over time, he was able to pay for his siblings to join him in Istanbul, where they all attended college. After college, Leo advanced in his career, working his way up in upscale hotels and restaurants. He also continued to support his family, eventually helping them purchase a home in the city.

After years of working in the hospitality industry, Leo was eager to learn and grow, driven by what he refers to as the “wolf inside him.” While he never expected to end up in the United States, by his mid-20s he was yearning for something more. He secured an internship visa to travel to New York and continue to work in hospitality. With the help of a friend, he found a place to stay and enrolled in a language school. While learning English, Leo began his internship at a restaurant called Chase Josephina, owned by renowned artist, Josephina Baker. However, the high cost of living in New York City meant one job wasn’t enough. To make ends meet, Leo juggled additional jobs as a cab driver and a rickshaw cyclist. “In New York City, being tough isn’t enough, you have to be tougher,” he states.

Building on some acting experience from his time in Türkiye, Leo received formal training by attending an acting school and later joining the New York Film Academy. This marked the beginning of his next chapter, redirecting him to Los Angeles,



where he sought to explore the world of film and television. In Hollywood, Leo immersed himself in local improv classes and began networking within the industry. He even joined the renowned Stella Adler Academy of Acting. "I was eager to learn about being an artist," he shares.

Leo took on any roles he could secure including appearances in short films, music videos, and independent pilots. And like many aspiring actors, he balanced several jobs to support himself while chasing his artistic dreams. The competitive and demanding nature of Hollywood led Leo to question whether it was a sustainable path for him. "It was a tough industry and not a very realistic situation for me," he reflects. "The best thing I gained from my time in L.A. was a deeper understanding of the truth of acting and the essence of art."

Leo's next move was to the Pacific Northwest where he had visited and spent time on Decatur Island. He ran a Turkish coffee shop and farmers market on the San Juan island, prior to coming to Anacortes. In his transition to Fidalgo Island, Leo found himself starting over again, facing difficult times. "I was working two, sometimes three jobs, and living out of my van," he recalls. By 2020, Leo caught a much-needed break when he secured a rental space from the port to launch his Turkish coffee business. Even with the challenges he endured

to get the business up and going, Leo found immense support from the community. "After years of hard work, volunteering in theater, getting involved with the city, and building relationships, people showed up for me," he says. "The location was truly good luck."

After a highly successful first year, during which his business saw over 12,000 patrons, Leo reinvested his earnings into launching Zaza's Pistacia Drink. Sourcing ingredients directly from his home village in Türkiye, Leo found himself returning to his roots and what he knew best. "It was my childhood dream. I used to help my mom in August, climbing the mountains to pick menengiç (Pistacia terebinth) nuts, bring them home, and sell them to distributors," he shares. With his deep understanding of the product and his established connections with distributors, he was able to create and market his first product line.

What started as a small hut on the corner of Q Ave. and 11th st, has now expanded to include a Mediterranean food truck, a café at the Market, and additional product lines. Through the years of business ownership, Leo has gained an understanding not only of the logistics of running a business but also of the perseverance it takes to succeed. He attributes his success not just to his own determination, but also to the support from the Anacortes community. "This is



Leo's family in Türkiye



Leo's home village in Türkiye

home to me. The people here are incredible, and I am so grateful for their support. It's because of this community that I'm able to put in the tremendous hard work that I do," he adds.

When he is not working long days to manage multiple businesses and distributing products, Leo still pursues projects in entertainment. He has volunteered and performed at the local ACT theatre and is currently working on several documentaries that showcase his journey and daily life as an entrepreneur. Whether he's perfecting his craft in coffee or on camera, Leo strives to offer a taste of his heritage and a unique experience for others to enjoy. "One thing in life, no matter what you believe or who you believe in, as long as you keep your faith alive there's always opportunity and always possibility," he concludes.



Peace of mind for you and your boat, on and off the water.

- Haul out and storage to 110 tons.
- Volvo Penta dealer - IPS specialists.
- Mobile Service Technicians.
- Fiberglass, & Painting services.
- Serving Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties.

**VOLVO
PENTA**

360-466-3629 | sales@laconnermaritime.com

APRIL



2025 — CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1 – 30

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

@Skagit County

Whether you are a sports enthusiast, music lover, art connoisseur, or someone seeking family-friendly fun, our festival has a little bit of everything for everyone. From the one-of-a-kind Paccar Open House featuring test labs for semi-trucks to the vibrant street fair, the spirited Pickleball Tournament to captivating Art Shows, there's an activity for every passion. Check out the festival events page for special events throughout the month!

Time: Varies | **Cost:** Varies

<https://tulipfestival.org/events/month/2025-04/>

April 5

12TH ANNUAL MUSIC AND MEMORIES SPRING FUNDRAISER

@Swinomish Lodge and Casino

Skagit Adult Day Program presents its 12th Annual Auction/Dinner with delicious food, delightful wines, Joe & Kelly's vocals, and an incredible view as you raise your paddle to support our unique day program for adults with dementia. Join in the fun and laughter with fast paced bidding and friends. Sponsors, donors, and advance tickets are available at www.skagitadultdayprogram.org. Limited seats at the door.

Time: 5:30pm | **Cost:** TBD

www.skagitadultdayprogram.org

April 19

EARTH DAY EVENT

@Deception Pass State Park

Celebrate Earth Day at Deception Pass State Park on Saturday, April 19th. Explore, learn, and volunteer! Join for one activity or the entire day of events. Activities include interpretive walks in the morning,

microplastic demonstration, and a restoration event in the afternoon.

This event is hosted in partnership with the Deception Pass Park Foundation and sponsored by Dwayne Lane's Skagit Subaru.

Questions, contact DeceptionPass.Interpreter@parks.wa.gov.

Time: 10am – 4pm

Cost: Free

April 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25

TULIP FESTIVAL ORIGINAL ART EXHIBIT

@The Depot Art Center

Embark on a journey through time and immerse yourself in the beauty and rich history of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival at our upcoming exhibition at the historic Depot Art Center. Discover 32 original works of art, each capturing the essence of the festival since its inception in 1984.

Time: Opening night 5pm, other days 12pm - 4pm | **Cost:** Free

AnacortesArtsFestival.com/whats-happening

April 25 & 26

2nd ANNUAL ANACORTES EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

@Downtown Anacortes

The second annual Anacortes Earth Day celebration invites the community downtown on two days to honor the environment "from the forest to the sea." Festivities kick off on Friday, April 25th, with the Luminary Light Parade. As night falls around 8:15, dazzling paper sculptures, carried by people from Anacortes and Guemes Island, parade down Commercial Avenue from 4th Street to 8th Street. Colorful sea creatures, birds, flowers, and celestial bodies will light up faces and enchant onlookers lining the streets. The following afternoon—Saturday, April 26th—serves up more ways to honor the Salish Sea ecosystem.

Time: 4/25 8pm, 4/26 4pm - 6pm | **Cost:** Free

<https://anacortesearthday.com>



ProScapes
INCORPORATED

— LANDSCAPE DESIGN • INSTALLATION • MAINTENANCE —

est.

360-293-3221

www.usProScapes.com

2001

Landscape Design | Curb Appeal | Pergolas | Patios | Fire Pits | Fencing | Decks | Clean Ups
Retaining Walls | Walkways | Irrigation | Dry Creek Beds | Drainage | Full Service Maintenance

Free Estimates

Proven | Trusted | Reliable

BBB Whatcom | Skagit | Lic#PROSCI*985L6

Springtime

AND A YOUNG GARDENER'S FANCY

By Emma Christianson, Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse

Spring is a time of renewal, a season bursting with fresh life and vibrant color. There is no better way to celebrate its arrival than by filling your garden, patio, or porch with a stunning array of colorful annuals. At Christianson's Nursery, we offer a wide selection of petunias, bacopa, fuchsias, lobelia, and more—each one a perfect choice for crafting lush, eye-catching hanging baskets and container gardens. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, creating a beautiful spring arrangement is a joyful and rewarding experience.

One of the most exciting aspects of designing a hanging basket or container is selecting a color scheme. A well-planned combination can set the tone for your entire outdoor space. If you love soft, romantic hues, consider pairing pastel pink petunias with white bacopa and trailing blue lobelia for a dreamy, cottage-garden feel. For a bold, high-energy burst of color, choose fiery red fuchsias, sunny yellow calibrachoa, and deep purple petunias. If you prefer a more calming aesthetic, a blend of blue and lavender flowers with white accents—using lobelia, verbena, and alyssum—creates a peaceful and serene effect. For those who want to channel tropical vibes, mixing vibrant orange and hot pink petunias with deep magenta fuchsias and lime green sweet potato vine makes a striking statement.

Once you've chosen your color palette, it's time to assemble your basket or container. A good rule of thumb for a balanced, visually appealing arrangement is the "thriller, filler, spiller" method. The



thriller is your focal point, often a taller or more dramatic plant that adds height and structure. Upright fuchsias, geraniums, or angelonia work well for this. The filler plants provide volume and color throughout the arrangement. Petunias, verbena, or calibrachoa are excellent choices, adding fullness and vibrancy. Lastly, the spiller plants soften the edges of your container by cascading over the sides. Lobelia, bacopa, or ivy create a graceful, flowing effect that enhances the overall design.

To ensure your arrangement thrives throughout the season, start with high-quality soil. A nutrient-rich, well-draining potting mix is essential for healthy root growth and strong blooms. Avoid using garden soil in containers, as it can become compacted and hinder drainage. Choosing the right container is equally important.

**An enticing selection of
common & uncommon plants**



Vintage Home & Garden Gifts

www.christiansonnursery.com

15806 Best Rd., Mount Vernon

360-466-3821



CHRISTIANSON'S
Nursery & Greenhouse

15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Wills - Trusts - Powers of Attorney - Probates
Medicaid Asset Protection - Special Needs Trusts
Elder Abuse Issues - Geriatric Care Management

360-647-8846
www.elderlaw-nw.com

ELDERLAW
MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD
ELDER LAW AND ESTATE PLANNING

For hanging baskets, a diameter of at least 12 inches gives roots enough space to develop and keeps plants from drying out too quickly. Drainage holes are a must to prevent excess water from accumulating, which can lead to root rot.

Proper placement and sunlight exposure will also determine your garden's success. Most annuals flourish in full sun, needing at least six hours of direct light each day. However, some plants, such as fuchsias and bacopa, prefer partial shade and benefit from a little afternoon relief from the sun's intensity. Consider where your basket or container will be displayed and select plants that match the lighting conditions.

Watering is one of the most important aspects of maintaining a healthy hanging basket or container garden. These arrangements tend to dry out quickly, especially as temperatures rise. Check moisture levels daily and water when the top inch of soil feels dry. In hot weather, watering twice a day may be necessary to keep plants hydrated. Fertilization is another key factor in achieving lush, continuous blooms. A balanced liquid fertilizer applied every one to two weeks helps sustain healthy growth, while a slow-release fertilizer mixed into the soil at planting provides additional nutrients over time.


Regular maintenance, such as deadheading and pruning, keeps your arrangement looking fresh and encourages new blooms. Removing spent flowers prevents plants from putting energy into




seed production and instead directs it toward continued flowering. Light trimming throughout the season can help maintain shape and fullness, ensuring your basket or container remains full and vibrant.

There's nothing quite like stepping outside to be greeted by a burst of color from a thriving hanging basket or container garden. Whether draped in cascading lobelia, dotted with cheerful petunias, or trailing with delicate bacopa, your carefully curated arrangement will bring joy to your space all season long. With a little creativity and care, you can craft a stunning floral display that celebrates the beauty of spring. At Christianson's Nursery, we're here to help you find the perfect combination of annuals to brighten your garden. Stop by and let us help you bring your vision to life—happy planting!

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Should your strategy shift when the market does?
Let's talk about your options.



Troy W Kunz, CFP®, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

1120 12th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-4581

MKT-58940-A-A1



LIVE | PLAY | WORK
It's all at the Port of Anacortes

Ideally situated between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia, the Port of Anacortes supports jobs, environmental health, and quality of life in our community today and for the future.

<p>1,000 <small>SLIP MARINA</small></p> <p>with 115+ dedicated guest slips, surrounded by a 1-mile esplanade</p>	<p>3</p> <p>deep water SHIPPING BERTHS</p>	
<p>80+</p> <p>acres of COMMERCIAL PROPERTY</p>	<p>24/7</p> <p>operations at ANACORTES AIRPORT</p>	<p>\$65M</p> <p>in environmental CLEANUPS</p>



LIVING EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

By Jack Hartt

My parents taught me at an early age to take care of our home. Or at least they tried. They started by having me clean my room. Occasionally I would; it would stay clean until I got busy playing again, scattering toys everywhere. Getting me to scrub the dishes wasn't easy, either, as I grumbled my way through them. My first time washing clothes led to a bubbly mess on the laundry room floor. Other chores were equally challenging, for them as well as for me. But I did learn. They had me help in the garden, planting seeds, watering the new shoots, weeding, and eventually harvesting what we would eat for dinner that night. I came to realize that all the effort in caring for our home and each other paid off in having good shelter, good food, clean clothes, and loving relationships that last to this day.

The Greek word Oikos means house or household. This is where we get the word Ecology, the study of our household. Our planet Earth is our house, our home. It provides all we need for food, clothing, and shelter, so long as we do our chores, keep our place clean, raise our food with care, and manage our resources sustainably.

Earth Day has been celebrated worldwide for over fifty years now, encouraging us to care for our home. Transition Fidalgo began almost twenty years ago to spur local efforts here on Fidalgo Island, to strengthen our community and help heal our planet.

These are some of Transition's ongoing projects:

Gardening for Middle Schoolers – Transition Fidalgo, with additional help from the Anacortes Schools Foundation and local businesses, has provided gardens and a greenhouse at the

AMS students showing off their harvest at the school,
by Warren Carr





EJ HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Portraits / Family
Headshots / Real Estate
Drone Photography
Documentary
and more...

541.561.1270

www.ejharrisphotography.com



**Check out
my Google
reviews
online!**





LOCAL ANACORTES CARPET CLEANER
HONEST • RELIABLE • PROFESSIONAL





Carpet | Upholstery | Tile & Grout

Call Chris at 360-391-8745 www.acecleannw.com

Middle School, where volunteers work with the students to help them experience the joys of planting, growing, and harvesting their own food.

Seed Sharing: Thanks to volunteers and local businesses, we provided our community with over 2500 free seed packets last year. We encourage growers of all skill levels to join us as we deepen the resiliency of our island food system.


Fix-It-Days: We offer several venues for folks to bring in broken items where skilled volunteers repair the items. This reduces waste and the need to buy new stuff.

Feeding the Hungry: Transition Fidalgo supporters grow vegetables in their gardens and donate a portion to three free-food stands located around Anacortes.


Forest Monitoring: A large group of volunteers routinely studies the Anacortes Community Forest Lands to collect scientific data about the health and well-being of the forests and wildlife.

Advocating for Resilience: We continue to offer quarterly informational presentations featuring local environmental specialists. We have a presentation at the Senior Center on Tuesday, April 29 to learn about permaculture. We will also be active partners in the Anacortes Earth Day celebrations on April 26. One of the most powerful aspects of Earth Day is the sense of community it fosters. This day reminds us that we are all interconnected and that our actions affect not only our Fidalgo Island home but also the global environment.

Let Earth Day be not just a celebration, but a catalyst for change, motivating us to take meaningful steps towards a brighter future for all. Our choices and actions, no matter how small, can inspire others and create a ripple effect of positive change. Commit to making environmentally beneficial decisions in your daily life. Join us in creating a greener, healthier, and more sustainable world. Together, we can have fun doing our chores for the benefit of Fidalgo Island and our planet-wide home.



CascadeValley
SENIOR LIVING
Assisted Living & Memory Care



**Enjoy an Active Lifestyle
through Events, Activities &
Community Connection**

*Located in a Stunning
Wooded Retreat-like Setting*

Call today to schedule a tour!
360-435-3222 • CascadeValley.net
8400 207th Place NE, Arlington, WA

**Test ride an eBike today
and watch the hills just
disappear!**



Experience the effortless ride and unmatched performance of our latest eBike models, designed to make your journey smoother and more enjoyable than ever before. Come by today for a test ride!

Sales • Repair • Rentals
3 locations to serve your cycling needs!

1620 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
1704 S. Burlington, Burlington • 731 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor



**Do it Best SEBO'S HENERY
HARDWARE & RENTAL**

**YOUR FULL LINE HARDWARE
AND RENTAL SERVICE STORE**

360-293-4575

1102 Commercial Ave, Anacortes

Scan for a map to our store.





If you don't see what you are looking for in our ad, visit our website at

www.heneryhardware.com



"Serving Others As We Would Like To Be Served."

Earth Day

COMES BACK TO ANACORTES

By Cathy Enns

The second annual Anacortes Earth Day celebration invites the community downtown on two days to honor the environment "from the forest to the sea."

Festivities kick off on Friday, April 25th, with the Luminary Light Parade. As night falls around 8:15, dazzling paper sculptures, carried by people from Anacortes and Guemes Island, parade down Commercial Avenue from 4th Street to 8th Street. Colorful sea creatures, birds, flowers, and celestial bodies will light up faces and enchant onlookers lining the streets.

The following afternoon--Saturday, April 25th--serves up more ways to honor the Salish Sea ecosystem. Downtown streets close again along a "T" formed at the intersection of 5th and Commercial, yielding roughly four blocks of space for nonprofits to set up. From 4:00 to 6:00, environmentally friendly groups organized by Friends of the Forest will have hands-on activities to delight kids and adults. Organizations focused on protecting the environment truly enjoy educating the community this way; it's evident in smiles and



greetings for guests at each booth. The Friends of the Forest aren't telling whether the popular Poop Fairy will make an appearance this year. They hope everyone will come to find out!

Just after 4:00, the second annual Sustainable Fashion Show parades across Commercial from the corner of 4th Street, the new location of Chilly Rain Retro, the show's lead organizer. It's

SKILLED, CONSCIENTIOUS
TREE SERVICE!



- Removals -
- Thinning & Trimming -
- Fruit and Ornamental Pruning -

FREE ESTIMATES

Call Jeff today **360-420-6782**
www.deeprootstreeservice.net



CEDARCARE

**Award winning team of
Stanford & Duke physicians**



Primary Care | Weight Loss
**Specializing in Chronic Care
for Medicare Patients**

www.cedarcare.org

1218 29th St Suite B, Anacortes • 360-230-8088



A Retirement Community
**CHANDLER'S
SQUARE**

Anacortes' Premier
Retirement Living Community



1300 O AVE.
ANACORTES, WA 98221

360-293-1300

WWW.CHANDLERSQUARE.COM



Photo by Rakan Alduaij

a spirited way to raise awareness about the fashion industry's impact on the environment. Outfits created from vintage clothing shops and thrift stores prove that creating a stylish look by reusing clothing injects pizzazz into a wardrobe in a planet-friendly way.

The Procession of the Species proceeds along Commercial from 4th to 8th at about 5:00. Handmade costumes representing the huge variety of flora and fauna found in this corner of the Pacific Northwest will invite onlookers to engage in understanding and safeguarding the species around us. The Procession, which includes no spoken or written words, celebrates the web of life with both joy and reverence.

"Anacortes Earth Day is becoming a beloved tradition in town," commented Jordan Hay, Executive Director of the Downtown Anacortes Alliance and Project Manager of the event. "This year's two-day format makes it even more convenient to come downtown, enjoy a meal at a local restaurant, and join neighbors and friends in the celebration. It will be easy and rewarding to come both days."



At The Apothecary Spa discover and enjoy the beauty you deserve...Inspired professionals dedicated to providing pleasant guest experiences. Enjoy your Life!

Massage - Hydrafacial - LED Therapy
Salt - Float - Infrared - Body
Packages and Gift Certificates available.
Ask about our Memberships!

Now in 2 locations to serve you.
Anacortes - 419 Commercial Ave.
Burlington - 320 E. Fairhaven Ave.
360-299-2112 theapothecaryspa.com



Horizon

audio · video · security

CCTV and Alarm Security systems
Feel at ease when away from home. Horizon tailors the system for your specific needs.

- Custom systems for custom homes
- Residential and commercial
- Wiring, sales, install, and operations*

*Horizon does not provide monitoring services. Horizon recommends and is affiliated with AlarmRelay. Please ask for more information.



LIC. #HORIZST993L7

Serving our community for 40 years!

www.horizonavs.com
360-293-7335 | M-F 9am – 5pm

1010 34th Street Suite C
Anacortes WA 98221

Get to Know

YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT

By Laura Moroney, Director Marketing & Communications


Did you know Island Health is officially known as Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 2? Our Public Hospital District dates to the late 1950s, when three Anacortes residents—Ho Taylor, Estelle Ferguson and Jo Driftmire—discussed the need for a bigger and better local hospital. With the advice of local leaders, their first step was forming a Public Hospital District. Anacortes voters approved the formation of Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 2 in 1958. The three women literally carried the effort to the community-door to door-to promote a new facility, and the measure passed to build a new hospital in 1960.




What is a Public Hospital District?

Public Hospital Districts are created and owned by residents. They have a publicly elected Board of Commissioners who set the strategy and govern the organization, ensuring the voice of the patient and our community is always represented. As a special purpose district, the voters choose to tax themselves to control the future of healthcare in their community. There are 57 Public Hospital Districts in Washington State, and Island Health's district includes Cypress, Guemes, Fidalgo and Sinclair Islands.


**This April,
Healthcare
is on the Ballot.**



**Please vote by
April 22!**



Learn more at:
[islandhealth.org/
fundingahealthyfuture](https://islandhealth.org/fundingahealthyfuture)



**We are your
Public
Hospital
District**



Elliott H. Johnson, CFP®

**TRANSFORM
RMD'S INTO
QUALIFIED
CHARITABLE
DONATIONS**

Doing good is often
reward enough, but
charity and tax
deductions can go
hand in hand.

360-755-3781
713 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes Wa. 98221
www.HavenFinancialPartners.com

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Haven Financial Partners is not a registered broker-dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected. Diversification and asset allocation does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss.



Elliott H. Johnson, CFP®



Anna-Maria Finn-Hurley
Client Relations Manager



Baxter Anderson
Branch Associate

Local Healthcare is on the Ballot

This April, Island Health's Board of Commissioners are asking residents of Skagit County Public Hospital District No. 2 to vote in a special election for the Island Health Maintenance and Operations Levy. This levy is on the ballot to address the growing needs of our hospital district. Over the past several years, healthcare costs have continued to rise, and the demand for services has increased significantly. During this time, Island Health has continued to provide exceptional care, receiving three consecutive 5-star quality ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid—the highest rating possible.

Island Health is vital to our entire community. Providing award-winning, life-saving medical care, emergency services, labor and delivery, and preventive health programs is engrained in the fabric of each staff member and provider. However, to maintain these services close to home and meet the evolving needs of our residents, securing sustainable funding is essential.

The funds generated from this levy will be used to:

- Sustain 24/7/365 life-saving care by expanding medical services and updating equipment.
- Equip Island Health with modern and secure technologies for early detection of diseases and better integration of the electronic medical record.

- Maintain neighborhood access to award-winning care including cardiology, mental health, maternity, orthopedics, pulmonology, senior care and specialized services, close to home.
- Attract and retain skilled healthcare professionals to provide the best possible care, offering career pathways and educational support, while bolstering the local economy.

Any tax increase is a serious consideration. You are encouraged to learn more to make an informed decision. Levy information is available at islandhealth.org/fundingahealthyfuture.

Ballots will be mailed April 2. Please remember to vote before April 22.

Visit Our New Showroom In Anacortes!
ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL FINANCING OFFERS

Ronk Brothers
HEATING | COOLING | ELECTRICAL

RonkHeating.com 360.325.4231




Family Owned

SAFE HARBOR
Funeral Service

Serving Washington Families since 2011



**Your Loved One
Is Always in Our Care**

We at Safe Harbor Funeral Service are pleased to announce a \$450 discount off all of our funeral plan pricing for the following individuals and their immediate and extended family members:

• Veterans	• Credit Union Members	• In-Home Care Patients
• Active Military	• AARP Members	• Skilled Nursing Facility Patients
• First Responders	• AMAC Members	• Social Security Recipients
• Health Care Providers	• Hospice Patients	• Disability Payment Recipients
• Teachers	• Assisted Living Residents	


Please stop by our Anacortes office to pick up our Plans Price List.

360.201.9860 | 1010 34th St, Suite A Anacortes

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

Jill Sjolín
REAL ESTATE BROKER BY BOAT

SERVING ANACORTES, SKAGIT VALLEY AND THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS




For 24 years Jill has provided her clients with unparalleled levels of service and expertise to make their real estate dreams come true.

Call Jill today at 206-313-6563
www.JillSjolín.com

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE UNCONVENTIONAL RUNWAY SHOW

By Michele Pope

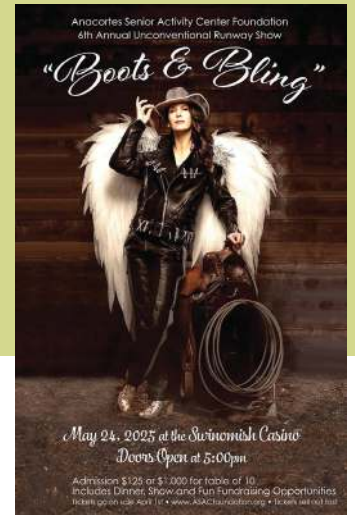
The most important part of making any event successful is teamwork. Like a good recipe, all ingredients are needed to create a successful dish. As the runway has grown, so has the crew making it happen. Many go unseen but are an important part of our success. This year we will have more than 40 volunteers providing many levels of expertise!

We wouldn't have a runway show without our talented designers. Their creative minds bring amazing looks each year. They dazzle the audience with glamor and fun-filled costumes. There are countless hours and lots of heart put into their designs.

The first designer meeting takes place at least six months before the upcoming runway show. There are follow-up meetings for updates and ongoing support. As designer Anita Mayer once said, "How amazing to see so many artistic and enthusiastic artists in one room"!

Many of the designers model their own creations. On occasion they recruit models who help bring their designs to life. A favorite gathering is the dance practice held at the Depot. Our music guru, PK Mead brings the music for the models to try their runway skills. This makes for a fun evening full of laughter!

While all of this is underway, other committees are hard at work organizing menus, table décor, room layout, ticket sales, music and more. Every effort is made to create an evening of fun for the



lucky ticket holder. The goal is to not only raise funds for the many ways ASAC supports local seniors, but also to have patrons leave looking forward to the next year's event. It is music to the ear to hear the happy comments from people leaving the event.

The May 24th event is going to be an exciting evening with an amazing runway show. **Tickets go on sale April 1st, at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center from 9am to 12pm, and online until sold out: ASACfoundation.org**

Last year's show sold out in one day so be sure to mark your calendars!

We'll see you on the runway!

WELLNESS FOR LIFE
HEALTHY AND STRONG FROM THE INSIDE OUT

A **full service medspa** to help you feel your best inside and out!

- Wrinkles and fine lines
- Volume loss and facial contouring
- Skin texture
- Acne or surgical scars
- Hyperpigmentation
- Dull or uneven pigmentation
- Professional skincare

see more results
f i d y
@wellnessforlifeWA
(360) 488-2162
www.wellnessforlife.clinic
708 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221

Call to give a Wellness for Life gift certificate this holiday season!

Bows & Biscuits
Certified | Compassionate | Canine Spa

Leave the Winter Blues Behind:
Destress and Pamper Your Dog
with a Spa Day

360-755-6820
460 Fashion Way Burlington, WA 98233

Grooming Sessions Appointment Only
Call ahead for same day nail trimming appointments

Beth Bell
Design Consultant

Experience
Expertise
Passion

Window Fashions
Slab Countertops
Tile & Stone
Flooring
Cabinets

Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor & Home
400 W Fir Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-416-2331
www.mvcarpetone.com
By Appointment Only
bbell@mvcarpetone.com

Blast of Sun

By Bettina Zidek-Roa

S U N N B E T Y M I N S S E R D N U S R U N E
 U B S U N S H I N E S U S C R E I E N H E T R
 N D I F T A U M U N T R U N S U N B L O D K I
 A R A E H S U N T O V O N U S B E A L S U N U
 N U F S G U N E S I F U D S I M U L U S S E B
 C A G S I F S U N E R T R U N S U N D A E U N
 S U T U L N S U N S T U I N S E B T S U N D U
 R E S N N S S U N R O O E F S E U N L I S G L
 H T S U U N U T A N S U S N A G L A S S U E S
 M S S U S S N N S H I N F M E S U N D I N A W
 O L S U N D R I F E S S U N F G L O W E F R O
 O S U N B A T O H I I N G S U N S C R E L E O
 R N S U N B O U R B S U N R I I S E S U O N R
 N U N E E R C S N U S H S U N H N Y S U W N S
 U F I S N H S U N S H I E N E T S U Y N E F U
 S L O U W E R S U N S U N D I A L D A A R Y N
 S U S N S H I D E N U S L O N B N U D A N Y U
 D R U E S S R I S U N L I G H N T R N S U N A
 W A N V E Y U S E S S A L G N U S B U C L K M
 S U N V A L L S U N B R I G D S U N S B S U E
 U N Y B I N D R O S U M B U R M R O O T N S I
 L I N S U N R I S E P U W D S U N T U R S U N
 B U R T N S U N B I L D S N U M N O P U S N S

Sunshine
 Sunflower
 Sunbeam
 Sunglasses
 Sunbathing
 Sunroof
 Sunscreen
 Sunlight
 Sunset
 Sunrise
 Sundress
 Suntan
 Sunroom
 Sundial
 Sunburn
 Sundae
 Sunday
 Sunfish
 Sunny
 Sundries

Natural Eco Solutions

Home of the Marquis Spas

"The Ultimate Hot Tub Experience"

2000 Commercial Ave, Anacortes, WA
 360-982-2115 • www.natural-eco-solutions.com

Serving Skagit, Whatcom
 and Island Counties



D-O-G

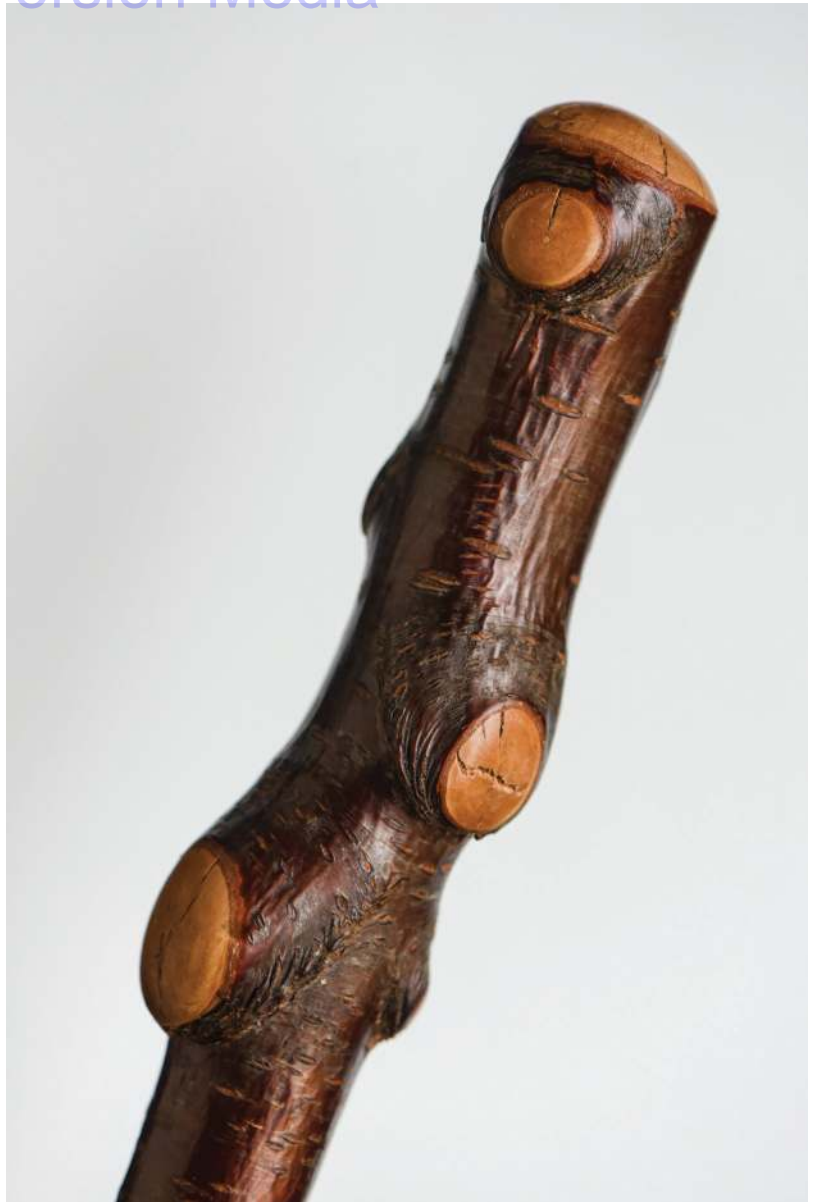

Just Me

AND MY WALKING STICK

By Bob Jepperson



Yesterday, I took a walk in the forest. Usually, I carry a heavy camera or my sound recording equipment, but even though I do enjoy bringing home a wonderful photo or a recording of a wild neighbor's voice, carrying equipment can degrade the experience. Yesterday, the only "equipment" I carried was my walking stick, the one to which I have become attached. Let me tell you about it:

Years ago - I don't recall just when or where - I found a four-foot-long piece of cherry about the diameter of a shovel handle. The stick wears a tight skin of the reddish bark that only cherry trees develop. I trimmed off the side branches and smoothed the rounded knobs. The stick leaned against one wall of our garage for many months before I wetted its reddish bark with teak oil, wet sanded it gently with 1000 grit paper, and wiped it dry. The stick bears one feature that should disqualify it as a walking stick; it is not straight. Halfway down the stick, it takes a detour - a bend - before resuming its journey to the ground. Fortunately, the crook in my stick did not prove fatal. It works. I like it. We're becoming friends.

**FIDALGO ANIMAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

**EXCEPTIONAL CARE
FOR YOUR PET**

360.293.2186
www.fidalgovets.com



**A SUPPORTIVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT DEDICATED TO
HONORING THOSE ON THE JOURNEY OF MEMORY LOSS**



Call Today **360-399-7263**

3502 K Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
www.lighthousememorycareanacortes.com

**CASH INCENTIVES
FOR ENERGY
EFFICIENT
UPGRADES**



**CASCADE
NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION**
In the Community to Serve®

Submit your invoice online at:
www.cngc.com/energy-efficiency



As I said in the first sentence, yesterday I took a walk. I go for a walk nearly every day, rarely on pavement, usually on the earth, across the forest floor, along trails in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. I started yesterday's outing near the water tank at the end of 29th and followed trails to the west shore of Little Cranberry Lake. Across the ice-covered lake (I am writing this in February), I saw the snow-capped beaver lodge on the SW-facing shore of Pine Island. I bet it's warmer inside that dome of mud and sticks.

I walked north on the trail that hugs the west shore of the lake and saw open water between the north and south islands. There, free from ice, a diverse array of our wild neighbors searched for food. One cormorant dived, five Canada Geese cruised single file, two bright white Trumpeter Swans fed near the shore, and one hardy bat swept low over the lake, occasionally nipping something from the wet surface.

Before I reached North Island, ice again covered the lake. No more waterfowl to be seen, but from the far north end of the lake, the booming voice of a male Great Horned Owl penetrated the otherwise quiet scene. Twas only 4pm, but with Valentine's Day just a few hours away, perhaps he felt amorous.

I crossed the parklike area at the north end of the lake, tried not to notice the mess someone had made of the ice, and walked to the foot of Cranberry Ridge where the trail turns steep in switchback fashion. On the ascent, I stopped occasionally to survey the

forest and look down at the lake. In the silence, I could hear blood surging through the arteries in my neck, but nothing else. Amazingly, city life surrounds Little Cranberry Lake, but distance and the lush coniferous forest buffers the sounds of human activity and the machines we employ.

I enjoyed the simple outing, just me and my walking stick visiting a different world not far from home.



SKAGIT VALLEY
Food Co-op
SINCE 1973

Giving Back to Planet Earth
since 1973

Voted Skagit's Best
Vegan + GF Foods, and
& Eco-Friendly Business!

skagitfoodcoop.com | 360.336.9777

AUTO BODY REPAIR & PAINT

✓ INSTANT QUOTES ✓ QUALITY REPAIR
✓ ALL MAKES & MODELS



360-293-8080
1013 10TH ST, SUITE A, ANACORTES
WWW.SEASIDEAUTOBODY.COM



Finnegan
and Associates PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Finnegan and Associates PLLC focuses on Family Law with an emphasis on providing personalized support for our client's unique legal needs.

Serving Families Like Yours



415 S. First St., Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 336-2000 | www.tdfinnegan.law

Tracy D. Finnegan




FAMILY OWNED | LOCAL BUSINESS

*Bringing You The Finest Selection Of
Hardwood, Carpets, Tile, Luxury Vinyl,
Cabinets, Counter Tops & More...*

9116 S. MARCH POINT RD., ANACORTES, WA
360-293-6000
www.flooringconnectionsinc.com

MON-FRI: 9AM - 5PM
SAT: 10AM - 3PM | SUN: CLOSED

Fidalgo Living

0424

There's no place like your very own home.

When the time is right to build, buy or update your home, count on our experts in Anacortes for financing suited to your needs. We listen, learn and help you achieve your dreams with home, construction, lot loans and more.

Let's create tomorrow, together.
bannerbank.com



Kara Gonzalez
NMLS# 713581
Residential Loan Officer
360-855-5431



Cody Ellison
NMLS# 1115516
Residential Loan Officer
360-391-5577



Member FDIC

Proudly Fueling Life in the Pacific Northwest

hfsinclair.com
360-293-0800

