What does it mean to be resilient? It means having the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; it is a form of toughness. To be resilient means you can bounce back. I have been using this word a lot lately to inspire and to guide our work at the City. What has happened to our community – our world – over the last few months has changed every person’s life. COVID-19 has taken the lives of so many and has caused a public health and economic crisis leaving our community in a state of uncertainty while we face the new challenges of learning how to live through an ongoing pandemic.

Resiliency means that through these twists and turns we have met these challenges head-on. We have adapted in the face of unprecedented adversity. As a community we have experienced profound and life-altering circumstances – we live in a world where the nature of work, school, family life, and social life have all changed drastically. The safety and well-being of the residents of Anacortes have been at the center of every action I have taken as Mayor since the beginning of this pandemic.

The City has continued to provide essential services, maintain uninterrupted public safety, road services, and utility services. We have also continued to look towards the future by supporting the expansion of Access Anacortes Fiber. We are building resiliency into every part of the City by supporting our employees, focusing on the stewardship of our natural resources, and continuing to improve and sustain our equipment, facilities, and infrastructure to the high standards this community deserves.
What does it mean to be resilient?

“WE HAVE FOSTERED A SENSE OF UNITY AND CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF ANACORTES.”

The City has been in constant communication with the residents of Anacortes. City staff and I have gathered information from the federal, state, and local level every week to report to you at my COVID-19 Community Briefings. I have collaborated with local businesses, Island Hospital, the Anacortes School District, and many other stakeholders on the issues that are affecting your life.

We have utilized new ways of communications through virtual meetings and by stepping up the City’s online presence. It is the priority of the City to be accessible and meet our citizens where they are and be supportive through finding resources, utilizing federal money for grants, and continuing to provide services uninterrupted. Immediately after receiving federal funds, the City created the Small Business Stabilization Grant to support struggling businesses allowing them to retain jobs and continue serving our community. We also created a rental assistance program administered through the Anacortes Family Center to support the most vulnerable in Anacortes. We are meeting residents where they are and providing support where we can.

The economic crisis that resulted from restrictions due to COVID-19 continues to be felt by our small businesses. These locally owned businesses are the economic backbone of Anacortes and they represent the entrepreneurial spirit of this community, they provide jobs, comfort, and a sense of pride. The City has focused on strategies to support these businesses by providing grants, connecting them with resources, providing masks for customer use, and placing parklets and streeteries to facilitate outdoor seating. The City continues to speak out and call upon residents to shop local and support these businesses – by making the extra effort to support each other during this time we have fostered a sense of unity and confidence in the future of Anacortes. Anacortes continues to be a vibrant and exciting City because of our business community.

THE 2021 BUDGET

Right now, the City is working to develop the budget for the year 2021. We have seen a lot of economic uncertainty and have had to be dynamic and innovative in working to meet the budget goals set by the City Council. Part of building resiliency into the structure of our budget is assuring that the City can react quickly and nimbly, responding to fluctuations in projected tax revenues that fund governmental activities. By choosing to enact a yearly budget for the year 2021 the City will be able to use the best available information to create a budget that will be adaptable to any changing economic circumstances we find ourselves in. While the community focuses on staying healthy and staying safe, you can be confident that the City is moving forward and focusing on the quality of life of every resident of Anacortes.

Our community has grown closer and the City commits itself to maintaining a culture of inclusion. We know that we must take care of one another and through our sacrifices and our compassion we have shown ourselves to be resilient. We have shown that Anacortes cares and we will get through this and thrive.

My Best,

Laurie Gere, Mayor
ANACORTES CITY COUNCIL

RYAN WALTERS - WARD 1
(360) 610-7770
RYANW@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH - WARD 2
(360) 708-0267
CHRISTINEC@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

JEREMY CARTER - WARD 3
(425) 773-5935
JEREMYC@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

MATT MILLER - POSITION 4
(360) 588-9070
MATTM@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

BRUCE MCDOUGALL - POSITION 5
(303) 551-5554
BRUCEM@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

CAROLYN MOULTON - POSITION 6
(360) 472-0335
CAROLYNM@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

ANTHONY YOUNG - POSITION 7
(360) 873-8407
ANTHONY@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

Your Anacortes City Council is here to serve you! E-mail the entire council at: CITYCOUNCIL@CITYOFANACORTES.ORG
A LETTER FROM
CITY COUNCIL

BY COUNCILMEMBER
ANTHONY YOUNG,
POSITION 7

It is no secret that our year of 2020 has been a bumpy road for most of us, filled with peaks and valleys of high hopes and even a bit of despair. Still, I cannot help but see how our town is proving itself to be very resilient, and, given the theme of this printing, so am I.

When I think of this and being asked to write an article, my mind was instantly drawn to the thoughts of the “flavor” and “feel” of this town. Then, I considered how Anacortes has transformed itself from a small fishing village to a charming beautiful town that shines bright with a style that I like to describe as “denim elegance” with refined, and yet simple taste and preference for quality of life.

The “fit” for me are the many soul stirring and inspiring vistas, beautiful surroundings, and in a daily discovery of the many colorful personalities and wonderful people that also chose to live here; this makes for a rich and fascinating journey and experience unlike any place I have ever been or lived.

All my life I have struggled to overcome the tests of childhood blindness, challenged societal injustices, and questioned a prevalent system of access and opportunity inequality. All of these “systems” and structures can act as a daily reminder of the difficult obstacles we all face in life. And yet, despite our heart sometimes wishing we had fewer struggles, it is precisely in times like these and through our experiences that we often learn our most valued and useful life lessons for the journey ahead. For me, this has proven true in my life as a public-servant on City Council and in my personal life. I have chosen to live both roles undergirded with a determination and resilience inspired by hope and faith that LOVE will shine though. Yes, even now.

At this moment of writing, all of us are experiencing the pains from COVID-19. Yet, many of our citizens, schools, our local businesses, and our local hospital have weathered the storm thus far and have been flexible enough, no, resilient enough, to take one step at a time to persevere through this crisis and come out a little wiser.

Borrowing from the Civil Rights champion John Lewis, we have all got to do our bit at being “Good Trouble,” and help be the change we want to see in our world. We need to and can freely celebrate ALL cultures and ensure that all lives really do matter. That change will not get here easily, nor without your help and assistance pushing forward, arm in arm, united in resolve to make the most of what we have and in celebration of the future we all can share together.

I love my Town!

Councilmember Anthony Young
FINANCE

A DYNAMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

When the City recognized the potential impacts that this global health crisis could have, the City Council acted quickly by adopting Resolution 2082. This directed the City’s response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Budget section of Resolution 2082 implemented a hiring freeze on positions funded by governmental funds, suspended non-essential equipment purchases unless funded by grants or other utility fund resources, and required spending and staff time be tracked for potential future reimbursement by grant funding.

The City immediately began tracking the external factors impacting the budget and prepared to make necessary changes. The Mayor and every Department Head closely examined their department’s budget for cost saving opportunities. The City Council enacted changes that would prioritize maintaining public safety and essential City services while accounting for projected budgetary shortfalls. All discretionary spending was scrutinized across all departments, and on June 22nd Ordinance 3072 was adopted which authorized a budget amendment reducing budgeted expenditures by more than $1.6M for the year 2020.

This shows the distribution of the $1.6 million budget amendment across spending categories. The amendment to the 2020 budget was a response to the projected shortfall in revenue collected by the City.
The three primary tax revenue streams for the City are sales tax, property tax, and utility tax.

The line graph below depicts the decrease in sales tax revenue received by the City in 2020 compared to 2019, the decrease in revenue is the result of COVID-19 restrictions. The budget amendment authorized by Ordinance 3072 is part of a strategy to mitigate the impacts of that lost revenue. Sales tax revenue is one of the City's largest revenue streams funding City services.

The sales tax budget for fiscal year 2020 is $4.95M, and receipts through September are roughly $3.36M. We expected to receive $3.6M by this time, putting sales tax receipts $241,000 under budgeted expectations. This decrease in sales tax revenue, while significant, is less than expected. The City receives sales tax receipts two months after a retail sale is made; e.g. a purchase made in March will generate sales tax the City will receive in May. From May to September sales tax receipts are down an average of 11%, however, because the sales tax revenues in the first part of the year, from January through April, exceeded budgeted expectations, our total sales tax receipts for the year are now less than 7% under budget.

Property tax for fiscal year 2020 was budgeted at $5.2M. Property tax is receipted generally twice a year, in May and November; year to date receipts through August are $2.9M - and are meeting expectations. Property tax has not yet been materially affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Utility tax is paid on both private utilities such as electricity and natural gas, and public utilities such as water and sewer. For the year 2020, Private Utility tax is budgeted at $1.93M and current receipts are 3.8% over budget. Public Utility tax is budgeted at $2.08M and receipts are currently 1.1% under budget. The combined Utility tax revenues are budgeted at $4.01M, with current receipts at $2.44M overall we are slightly exceeding budgeted expectations.

Every City department is prepared for a different financial outlook than anticipated before COVID-19. The budget planning process looked a bit different during this time of uncertainty. The Finance department developed revenue projections that were balanced against departmental expenditure budget requests, which guided the City in proposing a fiscally responsible budget that meets the City's budget goals.

In previous years the City has prepared a biennial, or a two-year budget. Given the uncertainty in the economy, and unknown length of the economic recovery, it was practical to go to a one-year budget process. This gives the City the ability to closely monitor and quickly adjust to budget changes, to ensure we maintain public safety and other basic services, while sustaining current projects and assisting the community in economic recovery efforts.
ADULTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Wednesday Night Programs 7 pm
Programs TBD
Stay tuned for workshops, live Zoom
events with experts, community
videos, Maritime series, Manieri
programs, digital dives and more!
Visit library.cityofanacortes.org for
dates and times.

HUMANITIES WA PRESENTS

Always On: How to Turn Up the
Volume on Modern Communication
Monica Cortes Viharo
Wednesday, November 4 at 7 pm

Washington’s Undiscovered
Feminists
Mayumi Tsutakawa
Wednesday, December 2 at 7 pm

TEENS

TEEN NEWSLETTER SIGNUP
Subscribe to our Teen Newsletter for
info on: Game Nights, Clubs, Teen
Advisory Group, Teen Writing, etc.
https://anacorteswa.gov/1086/
e-newsletters

THANK YOU
Thank you to our community
members who shared
their hobbies, talents,
and passions with us this
summer in our Together We
Discover series. We look
forward to featuring more
of you this fall in our virtual
programs!

STAY UPDATED!
Sign up for our newsletter
library.cityofanacortes.org
Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/AnacortesPublicLibrary
Watch programs
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC38maL3ZWnZGVUBzTmoG65w

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Friends of the Library provides funding for books and programming at
APL. While the FriendShop is closed, they need your support! Become a
member or make a financial donation today at
www.friendsoftheanacorteslibrary.org
EBOOKS
Check out our e-resources! Download & stream ebooks, audiobooks, movies and music.

HOOPLA
https://www.hoopladigital.com
Instantly borrow movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and more 24/7 with your library card.

OVERDRIVE
https://anytime.overdrive.com
Browse and download a collection of thousands of titles for your Kindle, Nook, iPad or other eReader devices.

LIBBY
https://meet.libbyapp.com
Want to read e-Books and audiobooks on your phone or tablet? Then download the Libby app.

CURBSIDE DELIVERY
Monday—Saturday
11:00 am–4:00 pm
Tuesday
11:00 am–7:00 pm
We are offering holds pickup Monday - Saturday. Requests for materials can be placed in our online catalog. Visit our library webpage for details.

BOOK RETURNS
Tuesday
11:00 am–7:00 pm
Friday & Saturday
11:00 am–4:00 pm

Staff members deliver books to happy patrons.

VIRTUAL STORYTIMES
Preschool Storytime—3 to 5
Mondays at 11 am
Baby/Toddler Storytime—birth to 3
Wednesdays at 11 am
Pajama Storytime—All ages
Thursdays at 6 pm
Time for Tots—birth to 3
Fridays at 11 am

TUESDAY TALES
Join us every Tuesday for a special guest storytime!
6:00 pm

NEW SERVICE!
Are you looking for something new to read? Library staff will select books for you based on your likes and interests. Check the library website for more information.

CHILDREN
For more information visit our website or call the Children’s Library at (360) 293-1910

VIRTUAL STORYTIMES
Preschool Storytime—3 to 5
Mondays at 11 am
Baby/Toddler Storytime—birth to 3
Wednesdays at 11 am
Pajama Storytime—All ages
Thursdays at 6 pm
Time for Tots—birth to 3
Fridays at 11 am

Young readers enjoying storytime at home.

TUESDAY TALES
Join us every Tuesday for a special guest storytime!
6:00 pm

NEW SERVICE!
Are you looking for something new to read? Library staff will select books for you based on your likes and interests. Check the library website for more information.
When the library closed its doors back in March amidst a flurry of checkouts and uncertainty, no one guessed it would be closed the majority of 2020. The staff began a long journey of adapting and reinventing library services. Within days of closing, staff were supporting electronic services as usage skyrocketed, processing quarantined returns, and answering questions over the phone both in the library and remotely. Children’s and adult programming quickly went virtual, with staff learning a whole new skillset behind and in front of a camera. Phase 2 allowed the library to start curbside services, with usage growing exponentially every week.

Camaraderie and good humor helped the staff work through the complexities of figuring how best to serve and connect with their community, deal with budget suspensions and hiring freezes, and live in the ambiguity of what would come next in the middle of a pandemic. Along the way, we discovered that what patrons and staff alike longed for most, was connection.

Public libraries have a rich history of adapting to community needs. We’ve always been more than a building full of books. The library is a place for people to connect not just with a plethora of resources, but with their fellow community members. The library’s virtual storytimes allowed parents and children to see their local children’s staff reading stories nearly every day of the week. The Together We Discover series featured local community members showcasing their talents and skills. The library’s social media platforms became a place for people to share comments and connections they’d normally be having while standing together in the library.

Curbside delivery allowed for safe in-person connections and access to physical books to read, giving everyone a much needed respite from their screens. Staff worked to create safe procedures while meeting state guidelines and getting used to working long hours in PPE. They started dressing up in costumes on Fridays to surprise patrons and connect through laughter. Despite the pandemic and financial uncertainty, the library thrived as the heart of the community.

I started this journey as Interim Director in March, to then be hired months later as Director. It’s been an amazing experience helping to support staff through these incredibly unique times and to be constantly reminded of their commitment to supporting equitable access of information and connection with their community. Our staff worked to support at-home learning for students, parents, and teachers, providing resources throughout the summer and fall. All students have public library cards with digital access. We continue to work with longtime partners like A Simple Gesture and The Anacortes Family Center to ensure that those who need support can get it. The library still has a stocked food pantry, voter registration forms, WIFI, and more. The library is connecting the community one book, one phone call, and one person at a time.

While the methods have changed, the mission of the library to empower learning hasn’t.

Numbers are just one way to speak to the library’s relevancy, but I admit to my own surprise that at the time of writing this in mid-September, more than 60,000 of you have viewed the over 150 online programs staff have created and over 14,000 physical items have been checked out via curbside services.

The library has been supported along the way by the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation and Board, by generous grants from organizations like the Noon Kiwanis and State Library, and by patrons like you. If you’d like to learn more about library services or how to support the library, visit our website at library.cityofanacortes.org. Hopefully by the time you are reading this we’ll be able to see you in the library.
Despite the challenges provided by the pandemic, Access - Anacortes Fiber Internet is continuing to expand our high-speed internet network throughout Anacortes. We have seen the customer count grow from zero to 350 in the three initial pilot areas. Expansion is currently underway to pass another 1300 homes and businesses this year and next year’s expansion area will cover from A Avenue eastward.

Our community asked for faster, more reliable internet, and the pandemic has only amplified that need. From teleconferencing to online schooling, citizens in our service areas can take advantage of our municipally owned network without the extra cost and slow-downs.

Place your order online to get Access!

fiber.cityofanacortes.org

Residential Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>プラン</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>月払い</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Mbps</td>
<td>$39/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Gbps</td>
<td>$69/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed WiFi</td>
<td>$10/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Fee</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>プラン</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12月契約</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Mbps</td>
<td>$89/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Gbps</td>
<td>$149/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed WiFi</td>
<td>$10/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Fee</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIBER FOR ALL

Low-income and indigent residents are able to apply for a 20% discount on their fiber internet. If you currently have Access Fiber as your service provider and qualify for reduced rates, please contact the Fiber Department at (360) 588-8300.

Contact

(360) 588-8300
broadband@cityofanacortes.org
City Hall 904 6th St. Anacortes, WA 98221
The perseverance and dedication of our community has been heartwarming. We at the City are grateful to see the thoughtfulness, willingness, encouragement, and the ability of our community to bounce back upon reopening. Your resilience is inspiring to us.

The City continues to focus its efforts on helping our community remain the vibrant and dynamic city we all love. When COVID-19 restrictions forced the closure or limited the ability of our businesses to serve customers the City took measures to help keep our community alive and well. We realize the importance of supporting the nexus of our community – our small businesses. These businesses provide jobs, entertainment, and necessities to keep us together. The City of Anacortes has allocated funding from sources to support our small businesses.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided $68,183, and two further installations of funding to prepare for, respond to, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. With the HUD funding, we have to date, provided 10 businesses with a total of $101,653.

The City amended the 2020 Action Plan to utilize its annual funding to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. This gave us an additional $100,000 to help businesses. The Planning Community & Economic Development Department (PCED) utilized the Lodging Tax funding to purchase parklets. These were set up outside businesses on the street to expand the number of seating and allow customers the opportunity to visit or dine in their favorite location. The City also received a private donation of $101,500 to provide to our small businesses to help fund their unmet needs.

The creativity and resiliency of our City leaders and businesses is extraordinary but not unexpected knowing who we are as A-Town! All of us have done a good job taking care of each other and the City will continue to find ways to support the businesses so they can continue to serve our community.


Thank you to the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce for providing pictures for this page and being a partner to local businesses!
COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUTH

“WE AIM TO PROVIDE CHILDREN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO INTERACT, PLAY GAMES, AND DEVELOP MOTOR SKILLS.”

TRAVIS ANDERSON, RECREATION COORDINATOR

2020 gave us a lot of lemons and not much lemonade. It seems we could all use a little hope to help us through the cool and dark winter weather. Our first thought was, what can we do to support our students attending remote and hybrid schooling? City staff reached out to the Anacortes School District and community partners to ask how we could help!

We started to look for ways we could safely navigate COVID-19 restrictions and help kids play together and learn. The first thing we did was work with the School District to set up “Camp Active.” It was a five-week camp that met two days a week so kids could run and play games. The youngest children were treated to story times after their camp sessions by the Anacortes Public Library. Masks and social distancing made things challenging but fun prevailed with a little creativity.

The next step was partnering to create safe activities indoors! The Library and School District reached out to classroom volunteers to offer a COVID-19 safe story time, and we set up space at City facilities so these volunteers could read stories together with children. The Library trained teenage volunteers so that everyone could share their love of reading.

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) has been a popular destination for many who are looking for safe and physically distant ways to exercise. With that in mind, the Friends of the ACFL and City staff collaborated to provide “Autumn in the ACFL.” These are hikes and games for kids twice a week at Heart Lake. The Friends lead hikes in the ACFL to introduce young people to nature-based activities.

We appreciate the team effort it took to make these programs happen. Perhaps we can end the year with more lemonade after all, thanks to our community partners.

WE WERE FORCED TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX IN ORDER TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN ANACORTES.
STEPPING UP AND WORKING TOGETHER

When COVID-19 came to our community, it shuttered schools, businesses, gyms, libraries, and many other places where we would normally visit. Throughout the pandemic, our parks stayed open. As a result, we have had more visitors than usual and all the extra traffic has put a strain on our human and natural resources. The City knows how crucial it is for our residents to have safe, spacious outdoor areas to enjoy, so staff worked seven days a week, directing traffic, cleaning restrooms, and picking up trash left behind. We were able to keep things open thanks to their hard work and cooperation from the community.

Volunteers stepped up to weed flowerbeds at the library, Causland Park, and at the new Pickett Pocket Park; named in honor of Erica Pickett former City Council member and active member of the community. Parks employees, in addition to their new duties, kept up with our regular maintenance even though staffing was reduced.

To keep projects going we reached out to other groups in the county. We have collaborated on several important projects including an island-wide Asian Giant Hornet trapping network with the Samish Nation, Swinomish Nation, Port of Anacortes, Skagit County Parks, and local citizen scientists. None have been caught here so far. We are partnering with the Anacortes School District, the Anacortes Public Library, and groups interested in supporting our youth. The Senior Activity Center is filming new virtual classes in collaboration with the Senior College.

Together we have shown our tenacity to get work done despite the numerous adversities COVID-19 has delivered. The City maintains its commitment to protecting our community’s precious natural resources.

Connect with us!

We look forward to offering our normal programs for both youth and adults when it is safe. In the meantime, please check our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages for updates on programs.

If you have an idea for a physically distant and safe recreation program, contact Dustin South our Recreation Manager.
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Thank you for the years of service from our four long-time employees who retired in the first half of 2020.

THANK YOU

Valora Sandstrom worked as the Administrative Assistant for 33 years. She helped with recreation class sign ups, improving our website for Washington Park, administrative management of Grand View Cemetery, and early support for the Anacortes Parks Foundation.

Sally Hill retired after 30 years of caring for Seniors in our community. Whether it was working for the County when they operated the Senior Activity Center or when she came to work for the City in 2017, Sally constantly helped improve services to Anacortes Seniors.

Mary Snyder job-shared our Administrative Assistant position for 27 years. Mary helped manage our Conservation Easement Program for donations in the City forest lands, staffed the Anacortes Arts and Parks and the Recreation Advisory Commission.

Heather Brennan worked in our Park Maintenance crew for 15 years caring for our athletic fields. Our Soccer Saturday's and all of our baseball and fastpitch teams relied on Heather to get the fields ready for safe play every season.

WELCOME

Sky Guthrie joined Parks Maintenance staff late in 2019 and is a welcome addition to our crew. He was and continues to be an active volunteer in the parks and Community Forest Lands in his free time.

AJ Yost started working with us as a student recreation assistant for our youth sports leagues and later worked in the summer mowing in our parks. He is now a full-time member of our Parks Maintenance staff.

Victoria Wong started with us as our new Administrative Assistant in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the upheaval of these times, she handles her many duties with grace and calm.

HONORING VETERANS

CAUSLAND WALL AND CANNON

This spring the Veteran’s Memorial wall at Causland Park was damaged and needed to be removed as a safety precaution. The memorial plaques are safely stored at the Anacortes Museum and preparations are underway for a new wall and plaza on which it will sit. Community volunteers have stepped forward in partnership with the City to repair the cannon, which has been in the park since 1960. The cannon and new Veteran’s Memorial will be back in place for the Causland Park Centennial.

In addition, there has been a desire to acknowledge the contributions of veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, spurring the possibility of a new memorial plaque. The City is partnering with the Anacortes Parks Foundation to collect donations for the cannon and wall repair and restoration.

Donations can be made at: anacortesparksfoundation.org – we greatly appreciate all the generous donations we have already received.
The Anacortes Museum has reopened to visitors. Find more info at: www.anacorteswa.gov/333/Museum. Reservations recommended.

ANACORTES MUSEUM
SINCE 1958

BILL MITCHELL MURALS
MOVING INTO MUSEUM STEWARDSHIP

The quirky, artistic, and historical contributions Bill Mitchell made to Anacortes despite his physical hardships make Bill a poster child (albeit a wild one) for the qualities of resilience and perseverance. The City is honored to accept his torch and take over the stewardship of his beloved murals.

Overcoming near-paralysis from a car accident in his early 20s, Bill forged a meaningful, eccentric life that was centered around art and local history. He launched the Anacortes Mural Project in 1984, intending to make 100 life-size murals showcasing the City’s vibrant history. By the time he passed away in 2019, he had produced and installed at least 178 murals.

Bill frequently expressed a desire to hand over the care of his murals to the Anacortes Museum and in August, the Anacortes City Council approved the acceptance of 139 murals from his estate.

The murals need routine maintenance, repairs, and restoration. Fundraising efforts for mural preservation have already begun. You can donate at www.anacortesmuseumfoundation.org/donate.

The Anacortes Museum Foundation, and the Mitchell family, will play a crucial role in mural-related efforts and decisions.

Mark Mitchell, brother of the late Bill, has teamed up with How It Works owner Chris Terrell to create a fanciful coloring book featuring Bill’s cartoons, which are available at local bookstores and on the foundation website. Half the proceeds benefit mural preservation.

The museum is creating a mural inventory, tracking the original mural sponsors, and working on a smartphone mural tour. If you sponsored a mural or own a building with a mural on it and want more info, email us at museum.coa@cityofanacortes.org.
Anacortes is located on the shores of the Salish Sea. It is an area of spectacular beauty and biological diversity. However, this delicate ecosystem is threatened by water pollution as our population grows.

One of the leading causes of water pollution in the Salish Sea is stormwater runoff. Rain washes what it touches into our streams and the Salish Sea. This includes yard chemicals, pet waste, oil, and trash. Polluted water harms everything from shellfish to salmon to orcas.

The City of Anacortes has a range of programs to address water pollution. The City regularly cleans and maintains our storm system. The City works with schools, local organizations, businesses, developers and contractors on pollution prevention practices. There are many ways that you can help too!

What Can You Do?

- Never dump anything down storm drains.
- Choose environmentally friendly products and use only where necessary.
- Check cars regularly for fluid leaks and repair promptly.
- If you see something, say something! Even if you aren’t sure whether what you are seeing is natural or not, give us a call, we will come check it out!

COA Spill Hotline:
(360) 293-1921
Online Reporting:
https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1076/IDDE
More info:
https://www.anacorteswa.gov/493/Stormwater

SOLID WASTE
2020-2021
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**VETERANS DAY**
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Garbage collection on Thursday, November 12, 2020

**THANKSGIVING**
Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2020
**THURSDAY CUSTOMERS:** Garbage collection on Wednesday, November 25, 2020
**FRIDAY CUSTOMERS:** Garbage collection on Monday, November 30, 2020

**CHRISTMAS**
Friday, December 25, 2020
Garbage collection on Monday, November 28, 2020

**NEW YEAR’S DAY**
Friday, January 1, 2021
Garbage collection on Monday, January 4, 2021

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**
Monday, January 18, 2021
Garbage collection on Tuesday, January 19, 2021

**PRESIDENTS’ DAY**
Monday, February 15, 2021
Garbage collection on Tuesday, February 16, 2021
An entity that is resilient is flexible, but constant. Early on, as the pandemic began to overwhelm the airways and news feeds and close down schools and businesses. The Anacortes Police Department reminded people that although things have changed, one thing that has not is the our commitment to ensuring public safety while demonstrating our core values of service, excellence, integrity, courage, and professionalism.

We have continued to respond to calls for service, make traffic stops, and protect our community. We have been a constant, and we have been adaptable. We implemented recommended health practices such as physical distancing and mask wearing, and we closed our front lobby while remaining accessible by phone and email. We have adapted by procuring an electronic fingerprint device that will allow us to serve the public in a physically distanced manner and we look forward to offering that service later this year. Our Auxiliary Patrol volunteer program is on hold but eagerly awaiting the time when we can call them back to service.

An effective law enforcement agency must be flexible and able to recover quickly in the face of change. The dynamic community we live in has a population variance in the thousands depending upon the time of year. Normally during busy summer months festivals and the natural beauty of our area draws visitors from around the globe and in the winter months our population can decrease significantly. The job of public safety with a wide population variance serving a diverse demographic requires adaptable, proactive, community-oriented police work.

We look forward to opening our doors to volunteers, partners, and visitors when the time is right and it is safe. For now, we work continue to work diligently to protect and serve the community we cherish and to be a constant in the face of uncertainty and change.
COMMUNITY COURT: MAKING AN IMPACT

A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Our resilient community continues to find opportunities and partnerships that will make Anacortes a safer place with the quality of life residents deserve. Skagit County, the didgwałlc Wellness Center, and the Anacortes Family Center have worked to create the Skagit County Community Court Team at the Anacortes Municipal Community Courthouse. The County was awarded one of 12 U.S. Department of Justice National Community Courts Site-based Training and Technical Assistance Initiative federal grants and the County will be matching at 25%, so over the next two years, there will be approximately $500,000 invested in this community program.

At Community Court, defendants who have been accused of non-violent misdemeanor crimes are connected with local service providers. Often, these non-violent crimes that defendants are accused of are the result of poverty, addiction, mental illness, and unmet basic needs. By connecting these defendants with locally sourced resources, our community is showing that we are a compassionate community, a community that cares. The Community Court will seek to reduce the use of first responder agencies like fire departments, emergency rooms, and 911, and reduce the burden to local businesses, and the greater community, caused by repeat shoplifting, trespassing, and drug paraphernalia cases.
SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

The City is required to update the SMP every 8 years. The update will assure consistency with state laws that have been amended since the last periodic update, facilitate integration with the City’s pending critical areas regulations update, address gaps in consistency with the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code, and make our SMP more effective!

01 SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATION CHANGES

Under consideration is changing the Shoreline Environment Designations for several areas to better reflect local shoreline conditions allowing uses and other standards for development. One such area being considered is a portion of shoreline east of Ship Harbor wetland at the end of Edwards Way. Surrounding land uses have shifted away from the resort and marina envisioned in historic planning documents toward lower density residential development.

The area’s land use and zoning designations were recently changed from Commercial Marine to Low-Density Residential 2 (R2). The proposal would change the shoreline environment designation from Urban to a split Shoreline Residential/Conservancy designation. Another area being examined is the Guemes Channel shoreline near the former canneries. There are potential inconsistencies between the current zoning and shoreline environment designations, changes are being explored to address this while retaining options for the potential reuse of the historic overwater structures and other shoreline uses envisioned by the community and property owners.

02 ABOVE-WATER AQUACULTURE

The City is also considering strengthening the SMP vegetation conservation provisions by adding more specific management standards for pruning, trimming, and vegetation removal along the shoreline. Changes to permitting are proposed to help property owners understand what is allowed to achieve improved aesthetics while ensuring conservation of habitat values.

03 VEGETATION CONSERVATION

Finally, the city is considering adding over-water aquaculture on existing over-water structures as a shoreline conditional use in the Aquatic shoreline environment. Sea cucumber cultivation is one example of an over-water aquaculture use which could be conducted on existing overwater structures. Such uses would have to meet strict environmental protection standards, minimize impacts to views, and gain approval from the City of Anacortes and Washington State Department of Ecology. All in-water commercial aquaculture continues to be prohibited.

WHAT’S NEXT?

A public comment period and Planning Commission public hearing will be held in the upcoming months and information on when the meetings will take place and how to participate can be found on the City’s Website. Visit https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1095/SMP-Update or contact Libby Grage, Planning Manager, at 360-661-3505 or libbyb@cityofanacortes.org for information or questions.
As our community finds itself deeply mired in the COVID-19 pandemic we have faced another threat to our community - a historic wildfire season. Over the past several years, the wildfire season has set tragic new benchmarks. The images of scorched landscapes, destroyed homes and businesses, and lives lost leave an indelible mark on our hearts and minds. The City of Anacortes has approximately 2,950 acres of Community Forest Lands and the Anacortes Fire Department prepares to protect our beloved forest lands by planning, training, and educating.

We are developing detailed emergency response plans that identify the most vulnerable areas of the City, and highlight strategies and tactics to isolate, confine, and extinguish the fire. We routinely practice wildland firefighting skills and focus on educating residents and visitors through Community Outreach. We build resiliency into our planning to minimize, mitigate, and eliminate the threat of devastating wildfires. Now it is time to think about how you can prepare for a natural disaster.

Remember when you could not find a roll of toilet paper, rice, flour, yeast, or hand sanitizer on the shelves of local grocery stores? This is when we all took a moment and realized we needed to be prepared.

According to the Anacortes 2020 hazard mitigation plan, the greatest disaster threats our community may face are earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, and tsunamis. Any one of these events could disrupt services. We must take the individual responsibility to incrementally build up our personal supplies before any disaster occurs.

Keeping in mind the lessons learned from the pandemic that our supply chain is unable to keep pace with spikes in demand! Taking proactive steps now does not have to be difficult. What is needed is a simple plan to be prepared to sustain ourselves and family members for 14 days.

While there is time, take these three simple steps.

**STEP 1:** Purchase enough food, supplies, and prescriptions for your family and pets to cover a 14-day period.

**STEP 2:** Store enough water (1 gal per person per day) for drinking and sanitation.

**STEP 3:** Document and have ready an emergency contact list to notify and check on family after a disaster strikes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY?

**EXAMPLE CHECKLIST PROVIDED BY READY.GOV/PLAN**
## 2020 City Legislative Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>01</strong> Affordable Housing and Homelessness</td>
<td>Advocate for investment and financial support to address homelessness and affordable housing by pursuing new ways to increase local projects of supportive housing. Voters in the City approved a one-tenth of 1% sales tax increase to fund such projects through the Anacortes Family Center and Anacortes Housing Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>02</strong> Municipal Fiber</td>
<td>Maintain the designation of Internet as an Information service, consider tiered rural broadband grants, and provide paths for local government to create the broadband Internet service that is right for their community. This service is vital to our economy and provides the means for remote learning, telework, telemedicine, and quality of life for every resident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>03</strong> International Ferry</td>
<td>Upgrade and maintain the redundant international ferry capacity on the route from Anacortes to Sidney, B.C., promoting economic development and tourism with an electric-hybrid vessel. In the short term, the City is working with the legislature to maintain this viable run with one Coast Guard approved ferry going into next year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>04</strong> Maritime Industry</td>
<td>Promote and expand a sustainable maritime economy while preserving our historically rich maritime culture. The City and local and State partners remain committed to our partnership to grow and support the maritime industry that is core to our history as a working waterfront town on the Salish Sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>05</strong> Community Youth Recreation Center</td>
<td>Build a community youth recreation center to support the youth by creating a safe place to study and socialize; and provide recreational, educational, and family support opportunities. The City and Fidalgo Pool &amp; Fitness Center continue to explore options for a joint facility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WATCH A MEETING

To view the live meeting without participating visit Watch Meetings on the City of Anacortes website https://www.anacorteswa.gov/700/Watch-Meetings.

Zoom links and phone numbers for participating in the meetings are provided at the top of the website.

City Council Meetings
Meetings are live on Channel 10 Monday at 6PM and re-aired on Tuesday and Sunday at 9AM, 2PM, and 6PM.

Planning Commission
Meetings are live on Channel 10 scheduled Wednesdays at 6PM and re-aired on Thursday and Saturday at 9AM, 2PM, and 6PM.

PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Planning Commission
Email the Planning Department at pced@cityofanacortes.org before 3PM on the day of a Planning Commission meeting. Include the subject line Public Comment for the Planning Commission Meeting on [date].

Mail comments to Planning Department PO Box 547 Anacortes, WA 98221

City Council Meetings
Email the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofanacortes.org before 5PM on the day of a City Council meeting. Include the subject line Public Comment for the City Council Meeting on [date].

Mail comments to City Clerk PO Box 547 Anacortes, WA 98221

NEW WAYS TO COMMENT

Live Public Comment: If you are unable to provide your written comment in advance of the meeting, you may join the webinar as an attendee to comment during the public comment portion of specific agenda items marked for public comment.

Visit Watch Meetings on the City of Anacortes website and click the eComment link beside the agenda for the meeting you wish to comment on.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Members of the public who require special assistance to participate in or access the meetings may contact the numbers below at least 24 hours before a meeting for special arrangements.

City Council:
(360) 299-1960

Planning Commission:
(360) 299-1986
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND TO THE RESIDENTS OF ANACORTES. WITHOUT YOU THIS PUBLICATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

A-TOWN
IS OUR TOWN

EDITED BY ALEXANDRA HOLDEN
DESIGNED BY WILL MCCrackEN
AND CORIN NORONHA