Large development project moves forward after years of planning

BY BRIANA ALZOLA balzola@goanacortes.com

Over the next decade, the waterfront property along Q Avenue between 22nd and 17th Street will go through many changes as it is prepared for a future that includes retail, residential and office space.

The 28-acre property is owned by MJB Properties, out of Seattle, which took over the property along the Anacortes waterfront. The brothers, who have a lifelong connection to the city, bought the property in 1990 with a vision to turn it into a space that included retail, residential and office space.

The property ultimately will include residential space, retail spaces and an event center. It will also include public access in the form of several places to walk as well as breccia and water access for all. MJB Development Director Jimmy Blais said.

Housing will likely be con-

Summarize the main points:

- MJB Properties is working on a large development project in Anacortes.
- The property is 28 acres and includes retail, residential, and office space.
- The development is expected to take years, with some parts opening by late 2025.

At the Messabout

The annual Pull and Be Damned Messabout was held Saturday, Sept. 17, at Seafarers’ Memorial Park and gave community members a chance to try their hand at rowing with The Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society.

Smash start on early learning center

BY BRIANA ALZOLA balzola@goanacortes.com

The Samish Indian Nation is taking strides to help ease the problem by working with the state and federal government to buy the property along the Anacortes waterfront.

The tribe broke ground last week on its new Early Learning Center on Q Avenue. The center will provide a Head Start program for infants from 3-4 years old in town. The new location is just down the street from its daycare center for older children.

Roughly $3.4 million came from government funding and grants. More will come from the Synergy Project, a group that brings together local, state and federal governments and area service clubs.

The project will likely open up in fall of 2022. A home-based version of the program will start up in the next few months, Samish COO Kimberly Anderson said.

The home program will send 10 teachers into the community to help new and expectant mothers, as well as existing ones.

Purchase of cinema building in progress

BY BRIANA ALZOLA balzola@goanacortes.com

Plans are moving forward on building a brand-new art center in Anacortes that will house various types of visual and performance arts.

But things are taking longer than expected.

The Anacortes Arts Festival, along with its collaborative partners, is in the process of buying the building at 415 O Ave., that currently houses Anacortes Cinemas.

The building sits on land owned by the City of Anacortes, so that lease needs to be approved on both sides before the property purchase can be finalized, festival Executive Director Meredith McIlmoyle said.

The festival and its partners, including Fidalgo DanceWorks, Anacortes Community Theater and the Anacortes Music Project, “remain committed to the project and are excited about bringing an arts and cultural center to our community, where we can all enjoy art, music, dance and performances together,” DanceWorks Development Director Melissa Tumagco said in an email.

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