

State of the City

A Report to the Community
February 2015



City of American Canyon

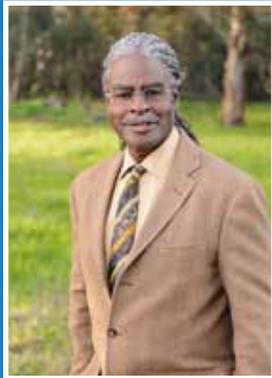
Welcome to the 2014 annual State of the City Report to residents and businesses. 2014 was full of challenges - from drought and earthquake to a bit of flooding. We managed to come through it all well, and make some progress along the way. We were able to open Newell Open Space for public use, improve traffic flow through town by improving our traffic signal system, launch several new tools to make it easier for you to communicate with us, approve new development projects, and kick off an important planning effort for the Highway 29 "Broadway District." This annual report provides you with information about these accomplishments and others, as well as some of the challenges we will face in the coming year. I hope you enjoy the report, and welcome your feedback.

Dana Shigley, City Manager

COUNCILMEMBERS



**Mayor
Leon Garcia**



**Vice Mayor
Ken Leary**



**Councilmember
Belia Ramos**



**Councilmember
Mark Joseph**



**Councilmember
Joan Bennett**

**American Canyon City Hall
4381 Broadway Street, Suite 201
American Canyon, CA 94503
(707) 647-4360**

**Parks and Recreation Office
100 Benton Way
American Canyon, CA 94503
(707) 648-7275**

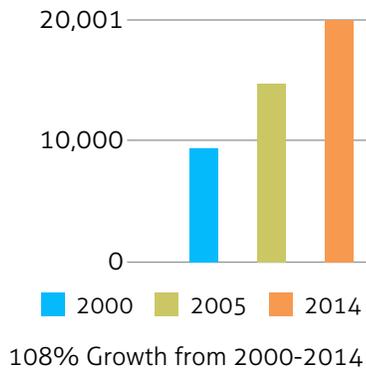
**Public Safety Building
911 East Donaldson Way
American Canyon, CA 94503
(707) 551-0600 (Non-Emergency)
911 - Emergency**

Executive Team Contact Information

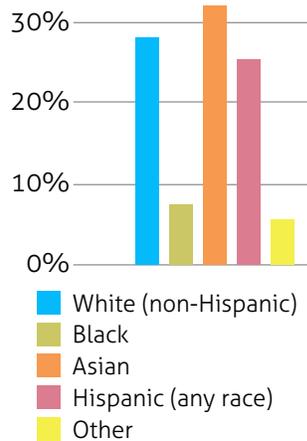
City Manager	Dana Shigley	dshigley@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-4369
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City Attorney	William Ross	wross@lawross.com	(650)-843-8080
City Clerk	Rebekah Barr	rbarr@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-4352
Community Development Director	Brent Cooper	bcooper@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-4348
Community Outreach Manager	Deanna Parness	dparness@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-5305
Fire Chief	Glen Weeks	glenw@amcanfire.com	(707)-551-0650
Parks and Recreation Director	Creighton Wright	cwright@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-4568
Police Chief	Tracey Stuart	tracey.stuart@countyofnapa.org	(707)-551-0600
Public Works Director	Jason Holley	jholley@cityofamericancanyon.org	(707)-647-4558

American Canyon at a Glance

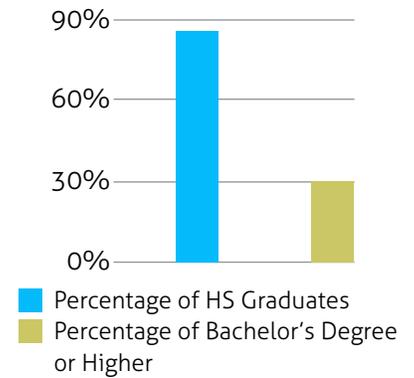
Population Growth



Population by Race & Ethnicity



Education Attainment for Population 25 or Older



Home Ownership Rate

78.50%

Median Household Income (2008-2012)

\$83,609

Households with Individuals under 18

49.60%

Language other than English Spoken at Home

43.40%

Average Time to Work in Minutes

33.2

The City of American Canyon

...is the 2nd biggest City in Napa County. The City's 6.6 square miles include 20,001 residents.

...is a general law City with a Council-Manager form of government. The directly elected Mayor and four Councilmembers are elected at large to 4 year overlapping terms. Together, they select and oversee the City Manager who, in turn, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the municipal government.

...has six City departments with 71 full time employees and between 30 – 40 part time or seasonal employees depending on the time of year. The American Canyon Police Department is a contract agency of the Napa County Sheriff's Office with 23 sworn officers. The American Canyon Fire District is a subsidiary district of the City and has 17 sworn fire personnel.

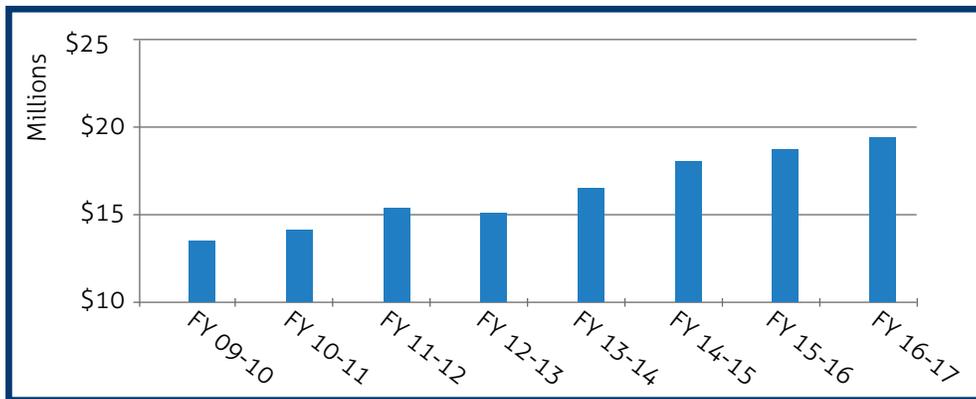
Information from the U.S. Census (2000, 2010); California Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit (2005, 2013); City of American Canyon



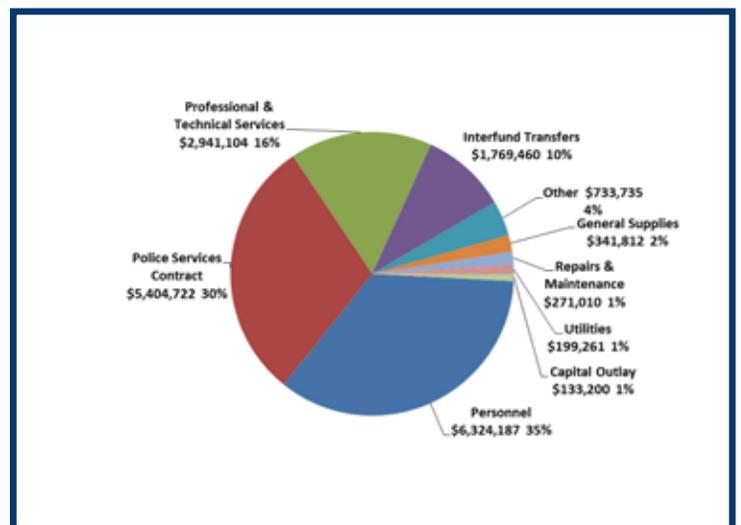
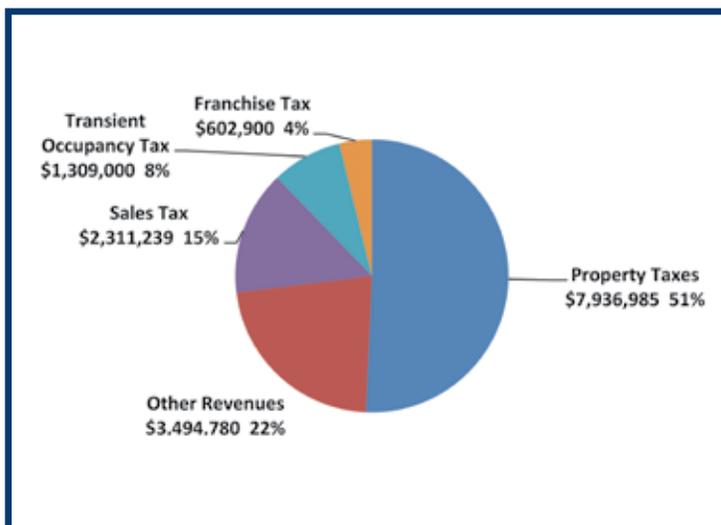
Fiscal Snapshot

The Great Recession that came to an end several years ago continues to impact the national and local economy with gradual, but sustained economic growth. The City's 2014/15 annual budget reflects this economic recovery and marks the second year of the City's fiscal stabilization plan that was put into place to ensure restored revenues are allocated to the most important projects and programs. For the 2014/15 fiscal year, property values have increased steadily and the November 2014 American Canyon median home sales price shows an 18.8% increase over the median home sales price in 2013. In fiscal year 2013/14 property tax revenue growth was 2.5% but is projected to grow by 5.5% in fiscal year 2014/15. General Fund sales tax revenues were flat in 2013/14 and are forecast to remain flat again in 2014/15. Transient occupancy tax, a growing source of revenue for the City and often regarded as a leading economic indicator, has been doing much better than expected. Over the first few months of the 2015 fiscal year, the City has also seen an uptick in development applications. This growth is crucial for generating revenues to pay for services that American Canyon residents expect from the City and staff continues to promote economic development.

The following chart represents the history of general fund revenues, and our projections for the coming three years.



Property and sales tax revenues are the City's two most significant revenue sources, and represent 66% of all general fund revenues. For the year ended June 30, 2014, the City's general fund revenues and expenses follow:



If you want to learn more about the City's financial condition, please visit the City's website.

Public Safety- Police and Fire

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Fire services are provided by the American Canyon Fire Protection District. The District provides a high level of fire suppression, emergency medical services and rescue services to the community and visitors to American Canyon.

On May 16, 2014, the Fire District began a "first response" Advanced Life Support Program. A fire engine is staffed by at least one firefighter who is also a licensed paramedic on a 24-7 basis. The District and American Medical Response (AMR) have established a public-private partnership that enhances the emergency medical system in Napa County and are working together to provide a higher level of care to patients in the shortest possible amount of time.

The Fire District received some very good news recently. Fire departments across the nation are rated with what is called a "Public Protection Classification" by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). The ISO rates all departments in the nation on a scale of Class 1 – 10, with 1 being the best. These ratings are used by the insurance industry when determining fire insurance rates for a given area. After a recent review, the American Canyon Fire Protection District's classification was upgraded from a Class 3 to a Class 2. A Class 2 rating represents the top 2% of all fire departments in the nation. This could have a positive effect reducing fire insurance rates for businesses and residences in American Canyon.

The City contracts with the Napa County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to American Canyon. The Police Department is responsible for responding to citizens' calls for service, traffic safety through enforcement, vehicle abatement, crime prevention, gang suppression, criminal investigation and community outreach.



Firefighters train year round



National Night Out in August, always a huge success

FIRE DISTRICT STATISTICS

Incident Type	2014	2013	2012
Fire	66	68	82
Rescue & Emergency Medical	941	903	767
Hazardous Conditions	39	25	22
Service Calls	100	115	140
Good Intent Calls	269	256	228
False Alarms & False Calls	111	97	116
Special Incident	2	2	1
Total Incidents	1,528	1,466	1,478
Training Hours	6,377	6,153	7,092

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Traffic & General Reporting	2014	2013	2012
Calls for Service	17,604	18,537	19,703
Reports	1,971	2,005	2,135
Arrests	665	765	859
Misdemeanor Citations	474	499	599
Animal Service Calls	649	590	711
Citations Issued – Highway 29	588	783	1,114
Citations Issued – Local Roads	700	661	823
Collisions – Highway 29	65	93	82
Collisions – Local Roads	81	81	131
DUI's	140	109	118
Parking Citations	511	175	342
Disabled Parking Citations	119	unk	unk
Disabled Misd. Citations	21	unk	unk
Car Seat Install	33	43	unk
Free Helmet	6	12	unk

Crime	2014		2013	
	Reported	Cleared	Reported	Cleared
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	2	5	2
Robbery	16	11	31	20
Assault	117	94	79	68
Residential Burglary	54	10	50	12
Commercial Burglary	46	21	42	30
Larceny/Theft	441	246	388	241
Stolen Vehicles	31	8	32	6
Total	707	392	512	289

Public Works

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Public Works Department is responsible for treating water and delivering it to your home and business, maintaining and constructing streets, maintaining the storm drain system, collecting wastewater and cleaning it for use as recycled water, and maintaining the City's fleet of vehicles and city-owned buildings. Aside from our normal maintenance and emergency response, the following are some of our major accomplishments for 2014.

ANNUAL CREEK CLEANING

City creeks received some special attention this year through the Annual Creek Cleaning and Sediment Removal Projects. First, crews worked to clear overgrown trees and remove trash which had accumulated throughout the year inside and along the banks of our creeks. Overall, 300 cubic yards of trimmings and a few tons of trash were removed. The next project involved removal of thick vegetation and up to 3 feet of sediment that had collected over the years on the concrete aprons under the bridges of the American Canyon Creek located on Danrose Drive and Elliott Drive. This buildup had decreased the capacity of the creek flow through the bridges by about half, which increases the threat of flooding in the area. Due to regulatory agency requirements this work required a special permit, onsite daily environmental monitoring, and most of the work had to be done by hand. We reaped the benefits of all this work when a huge storm in December filled up the creeks but did not overflow these bridges.



Creek before cleaning



Creek sediment and growth before removal



December downpour does not breach (Noel Brinkerhoff ACE)

Earthquake Response

The early morning earthquake on August 24th shook things up all over the Napa Valley. Here in American Canyon, city facilities and infrastructure fared much better than our neighbors to the north and south. Our maintenance division provided interagency assistance to the City of Napa helping with water main leaks. The recreation center on Elliott Drive experienced minor damage and City Hall needed some small patching and painting from slight cracks. American Canyon Recology helped make cleanup efforts easier by allowing free debris drop off around town. 24 boxes collected nearly 100,000 pounds (49.32 tons) of rubbish!

New Turn Lane on Donaldson Way

We completed a re-striping project on the west-bound lanes of Donaldson Way at Highway 29. This added a new right turn lane which has helped to reduce the traffic backup on Donaldson Way at peak traffic times.



Waterline Replacement Project

A major waterline replacement project was completed in September. A transmission main between Sheehy Creek and Airport Blvd was leaking and at the end of its useful life. As part of the project, we replaced 500 feet of the 14 inch diameter transmission water main.



Napa Junction Pedestrian Improvements

The Napa Junction Pedestrian Improvement Project was completed in July. This project was a priority project to provide safe passage for residents and Napa Junction Elementary parents and students. We have new sidewalks and storm drainage from the intersection of Highway 29 and Napa Junction Road along with the improved pedestrian access in this school zone area.

Public Works

LOOKING AHEAD

Green Island Road Makeover

Green Island Road, located at the north end of the City, is the only thoroughfare into the Green Island Industrial Park. With more than 5,000 vehicles using this road daily, including 2,000 heavily loaded trucks, the road is in need of repair.

Planning is underway for a major reconstruction and widening of the road and surrounding area. This project will include widening the road, moving utility lines underground and other improvements. The reconstruction will be done using an innovative paving method known as "Recycled Asphalt Paving" which uses the material currently on the road and repurposes it to become part of the new road. The City has been tentatively awarded a \$2.4 million grant from the Federal Economic Development Administration. The project cost is estimated at more than \$6 million; funding options are being discussed and if all goes well, construction could begin as early as summer 2016.

In the meantime, we will complete patching on some of the worst areas this spring.



Theresa Avenue Sidewalk Project

The final section of the Theresa Avenue Sidewalk Project will begin this spring along Theresa Avenue near Eucalyptus Drive. This improvement will provide a safer pedestrian travel path to and from Napa Junction Elementary School.



Other Priorities for 2015

Project design will begin for the Devlin Road Extension which will extend Devlin Road south to Green Island Road. Project design will also begin for intersection improvements at Eucalyptus Drive and Highway 29. This project will accommodate widening Highway 29 to six lanes, along with other improvements to create more roadway capacity and reduce congestion during peak periods.

Park & Ride Project

The Park & Ride Project adjacent to 300 Crawford Way, next to the library, will begin construction this spring and will provide much needed parking for the library, post office and commuters. Bike lockers will also be installed at park and ride and city facilities.

Highway 29 Signal Interconnect Project

This year, the City improved the traffic signal timing along Highway 29 in an effort to reduce congestion. These changes improved travel times during the most congested periods of the day. However, the signals in town are not equipped with the newest technology that allows timing to be easily and remotely modified as conditions change. They also lack features that prevent them from becoming uncoordinated over time. The City was awarded a \$200,000 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Grant to make further improvements including installing the necessary infrastructure to continuously monitor traffic conditions. The improvements will consist of installing camera video detection systems at five intersections, installation of signal interconnect cable along Highway 29 from Donaldson Way to Eucalyptus Drive and from Napa Junction Road to City Hall, and a traffic monitoring center at City Hall. The entire project will cost in excess of the grant received and other options for funding are being reviewed. The improvements will allow the City to recommend changes to signal timing on an on-going basis and further contribute to the increased efficiency of traffic flow through American Canyon.

Community Development

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Community Development Department provides services and information related to building permits, community preservation, development projects, economic development, land use and planning activities for the City.

Canyon Ridge Apartments

The Canyon Ridge Apartments is a 140 unit apartment project proposed on the vacant property north of Napa Junction Road and east of Highway 29. Building permit applications to construct the apartments were submitted in January. Look for construction this summer.



Building Activity

Building activity continues a steady recovery from the effects of the Great Recession. Excluding volatile permit revenue from new major buildings, revenue from "core" permit activity (tenant improvements and home remodels) has improved the past four years since hitting bottom in 2011.



Lombard Crossing Industrial Park

The Lombard Crossing Industrial Park began construction in 2014. The project includes two warehouse buildings with a combined square footage of 289,000 square feet. The first of the two buildings should be ready for occupancy in the spring.

City's Housing Plan

The City's Housing Plan contains policies for providing sufficient land and programs for affordable housing in accordance with State Law. Our plan was last updated in 2010 and an updated plan was approved by the State Department of Housing and Community Development in January. Final approval for the plan is anticipated in March.

HOME and CDBG Grant Funds

The City was awarded \$900,000 in HOME and CDBG grant funds for a first time homebuyer program and a low income owner occupied home improvement loan program. These funds are now available. To learn more about low income home assistance programs, please contact our contract Housing Agency, the City of Napa Housing Authority at (707) 257-9254.

Highway 29 Corridor Plan

The Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) approved a Highway 29 Corridor Plan in 2014. City staff had a significant role in the development of this plan which would improve Highway 29 to six lanes, add bicycle lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and a landscaped median. Approval of this Plan represents a new consensus among all of Napa County's jurisdictions on the future of Highway 29.



Community Development LOOKING AHEAD

Broadway Corridor

The City has begun work on preparing a Specific Plan for the Broadway Corridor. This plan provides an opportunity to evolve an auto-oriented highway commercial district into a livable mixed use neighborhood that also serves as the “face of the city” to the many people that travel on Highway 29 each day. There will be ample opportunity to learn more and provide input about the project in 2015.



Canyon Estates

The City Council approved a General Plan Amendment and Zoning for the Canyon Estates project which is a proposal for up to 38 single-family custom or semi-custom homes east of Vintage Ranch. This project will be submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for annexation into the City in February. An application for a specific site plan and design guidelines is anticipated later this spring.



Napa Logistics Park

Developers of the The Napa Logistics Park have submitted a building permit application to construct a 600,000 square foot warehouse south of the Napa Airport in the Green Island Industrial area. The same developer is seeking entitlements for an additional 2.2 million square feet of warehouse/logistics development on the same site.

Napa Airport Commerce Center

Developers of the Napa Airport Commerce Center are seeking entitlements for five industrial buildings totaling 572,782 square feet. For efficiency, the environmental review for this project is being coordinated with the Napa Logistics Park since they are neighboring properties off Devlin Road and S. Kelly Road. Both of these items should be before the City Council for a decision by summer, 2015.

Watson Ranch Specific Plan

Developers of the Watson Ranch project (also known as the Town Center project) submitted their application this year. The project includes 1,250 homes including single-family homes, townhomes and apartments; a new elementary school; public parks and trails; and rejuvenation of the mine ruins into a new gathering place for residents and tourists. The proposed Specific Plan is available on the City's website. There will be ample opportunity to learn more and provide input about this project in 2015.



HERO Program

The HERO program is now available in American Canyon. This program allows residents to install solar panels, renewable energy improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure improvements to their homes. Staff from the program will help residents determine what kind of improvements would provide the biggest cost savings. The costs can be financed on property tax bills which helps make the projects easier to pay for over time. For additional information call (858) 605-9429 or check the website at www.heroprogram.com/americancanyon.



Parks & Recreation

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Parks and Recreation Department plans and supervises all City-sponsored classes, programs and special events as well as youth and adult sports, senior programs and aquatics. They are responsible for providing attractive, functional and well maintained parks and oversee the operation of the Phillip West Aquatic Center, Community Center Gym, Senior Multi-Use Center and the City's many trail systems.

2014 Fourth of July

Building on successful changes in 2013, the 2014 Fourth of July Festival provided high energy and excitement from beginning to end! A rousing flag raising ceremony, complemented by fireworks and a wonderful rendition of the national anthem started out the day. All day entertainment included a food court, beer garden, an expanded number of vendors, and a kid's fun zone. Not to mention the best fireworks show in the North Bay! In all, attendance at this year's festival was double from last year, drawing approximately 2,500 - 3,000 attendees.



Newell Open Space

After 15 years of waiting, the City opened the Newell Open Space for regular public access. In 2012, City Council commissioned a public access study to determine the best route to gain access to the hillside preserve while still protecting the endangered red-legged frog that also lives in the area. A viable option was identified along the Newell Creek from the intersection of Newell Drive and Donaldson Way up to the historic access. An earthen trail was opened to the public in June. We are actively working on design plans, a grant and a land transfer with the adjacent property owner to make the trail even better.



Our Parks Are Healthy Spaces

In September, the City Council passed an ordinance to help ensure our parks are healthy spaces. A No Smoking Ordinance prohibits use of tobacco and nicotine delivery devices in City Parks. The addition of the nicotine delivery devices, known as e-cigarettes, to the ordinance made it one of the most comprehensive anti-tobacco ordinances in the state and it is now being used by other cities as a model.

Aquatics and Summer Camp

Several changes were made to our recreation programming based on a survey conducted in 2013. Parents wanted smaller and more aquatics classes. We were able to lower instructor/student ratios in every learn-to-swim class and shorten classes by seven minutes which allowed nearly 30% more swim lessons during the year. We also added three levels of more advanced classes to focus on stroke development, stamina and endurance. Parents also requested the summer camp "Early Bird" and "Late Owl" sessions to coincide with work schedules and middle school programming was revised to provide unique opportunities for the older kids. The changes worked very well and will be expanded in 2015.



ACCPF

In local government, there is never enough money to provide all of what is needed. For this reason, a dedicated group of American Canyon residents created an exploratory committee to develop a non-profit community foundation to help support recreation programs and facilities. The non-profit will be called the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation (ACCPF). You will hear more soon about this new group.



American Canyon Wetlands Trails

The trails at the wetlands are a part of the 500 mile San Francisco Bay Trail. The American Canyon Wetlands Trails were selected as one of four sites along the Bay Trail to develop an interactive interpretative app for smart phones. The app is called Point by Canogle and provides a self-guided tour of the Wetlands trails. The Bay Trail hosted a kick-off and unveiling of the app in November that attracted more than 50 people from all over the Bay Area region.

Parks & Recreation

LOOKING AHEAD

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

During the community visioning exercise in 2013, residents cited appreciation for the parks, recreation and open space opportunities offered in American Canyon, but identified a desire for more. To determine what additional programs and facilities are needed and to figure out how to pay for additions, the City Council commissioned a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment will ask citizens qualitatively, in focus groups, interviews, and open houses, and quantitatively, through a statistically valid survey how they like what is currently offered and what else is needed. It will also discuss methods to pay for new programs/services. As a part of the strategic outcomes, the project will ultimately make recommendations to the City Council and city staff about how to best serve the citizens.

Bocce Ball

Bocce Ball is deeply-rooted in American Canyon tradition. Before American Canyon was a city, its early founders met to hash out issues and concerns at the bocce courts at Lena's Tavern. While Lena's is not around anymore, the desire to build community and recreate while playing bocce is still going strong. With the help of many volunteers and two significant sponsors, Mezzeta Foods and Jamieson Ranch Vineyards, four bocce courts were completed this year at Veterans Memorial Park. There are efforts underway to form a league board, and offer games and tournaments this year at the courts. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (707) 648-7275 for more information.

Kimberly Park Improvements

In 2014, Council directed staff to focus on stormwater and soccer field improvements on the eastern portion of Kimberly Park. Staff is currently finalizing design plans for the eastern portion of the park. We expect to have the project out to bid and under construction prior to the end of the calendar year.



Evaluating Special Events

Community events bring neighbors together, increase the sense of community and foster community pride. To ensure American Canyon is getting the most out of our community events, this year a citizens committee and the Parks and Recreation Department will be evaluating special events currently offered and considering the following four goals set by City Council in the newly adopted City Strategic Plan to possibly establish new ones:

- Creation of two signature events in American Canyon
- Offering events on the east side of American Canyon
- Development of an event that utilizes open space resources
- Creation of an event that highlights the diversity present in American Canyon

Environmental Programs

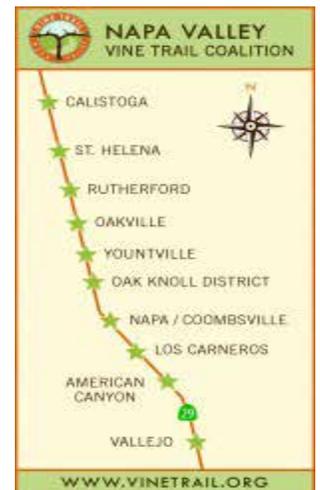
As the City's vision describes, American Canyon is a destination for outdoor recreation and natural beauty. To increase awareness, use and appreciation for our outdoor recreation assets, we will hire a part-time Environmental Program Coordinator to develop programs at the Newell Open Space and Wetlands. By summer 2015, we envision offering nature walks, children's camps, and special events that showcase our natural assets.

Celebrate Outdoor Recreation and Natural Beauty

To celebrate the City's outdoor recreation assets and pay tribute to the City's vision statement, in 2014 the City made a video about the Newell Open Space and the Wetlands. The video shows our local residents enjoying these spaces and has local and state officials describing why these assets are so important. The video is such a great showpiece of our amenities we plan to market it more extensively in 2015. Check it out on our website!

Vine Trail Planned

The Vine Trail is a planned 47-mile bike and pedestrian trail, which runs north-south through Napa County from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal. One segment, along Broadway Road at Veterans Memorial Park, has already been constructed in American Canyon. Plans are to build another link between Silver Oak Park and Silver Oak Trail this year.



Community Outreach

Having an engaged, informed community is one of the City's highest priorities. Why is that? Very simply put, when you're happy, we're happy. Informed and involved residents help your city government run effectively and efficiently, as well as assure that the services we provide are meeting the community's needs. Occasional evening meetings are not the best tools for reaching everyone in the community. In American Canyon we have many young families who are busy with homework and sports at night and commuters who don't return home until 7 or 8 pm, too tired to attend a meeting. We recognized several years ago that we need to communicate in other ways if we want to meet our goal of an engaged, informed community. Several new tools were launched in 2014.

Redesigned City Website



Have you seen the City's website recently? We launched a major upgrade in November. The overall goal was to make the website easier and more intuitive to the user. We also wanted to make it more vibrant and consistent with our new City logo launched in 2013. Check it out at www.cityofamericancanyon.org.

Engage AC

Engage AC is a brand new online application that we hope will make two-way communication between the community and the City easier. With Engage AC we can launch questions or discussion points and you can give us your feedback and ask questions. If you are curious, others probably are too. When you ask a question about a published topic, an informed staff member will respond on EngageAC.com.



See It, Click It, We'll Fix It!

See a pothole, graffiti, broken street light or wasted water? Jump onto See Click Fix and let us know. See Click Fix is a brand new reporting tool that will allow you to report quality-of-life issues and non-emergency problems and request City services through a mobile app or website interface. You can now provide the location, description, and photos in real time as soon as you see the problem. You can find out how to sign up on our website by clicking the "Report a Problem" button on the homepage.



City Manager's Friday Update

This isn't a new communication tool but it is definitely a good one and readership continues to grow and grow! Twice a month the City Manager's Office emails a newsletter designed to make it easy for our readers to keep up to date with things going on at City Hall and in the Community. Check it out – the link to sign up is on our website or you can email us at publicinfo@cityofamericancanyon.org.

Community Livability Survey

In April we will be participating in the National Citizen Survey. 1,200 households will be randomly selected to answer questions about public safety, recreation, wellness, mobility and other quality of life issues. The National Research Center will collect and analyze the results and compare them to an extensive nationwide database. We will use the results to address areas of concern to help make American Canyon the best it can be!

Community Outreach

Citizens Academy

The City of American Canyon debuted its first Citizens Academy this year. The goal of the program is to help develop future community leaders and build a better community by creating well-informed and engaged residents. Classes will help participants understand key roles and functions in the city and how they interact to form a strong and effective government. This eight week program is free for American Canyon community members age 18 and older. If you are interested in your community and how to make it better, plan to join us for the next academy. Send a note to dparness@cityofamericancanyon.org and we'll make sure you get notified of the schedule.



Academy Members Will...

- Meet with the City management team, including the City Manager and department heads
- Learn how decisions are made, how city funds are allocated and how departments operate
- Ask questions of the management team
- Hear the current status and future plans for American Canyon's development
- Learn about current issues and proposed projects in the City
- Participate in discussions about City policy
- Tour City facilities



Strategic Planning

As you may recall, we conducted an extensive Community Wide Visioning process in 2013. Once the Vision Statement (see page 3) was adopted we began work on a Strategic Plan for the organization. The Strategic Plan consists of our Mission, Values, Goals and Strategies. It will be used to guide and inform the organization for the next 3-5 years as we move the community toward its vision for the future. A lot of thought and deliberation was put into each component and the City Council approved the plan in May. Immediately following adoption of the Strategic Plan, City Staff began work on an Implementation Action Plan. This all-encompassing document contains a detailed list of the steps needed to accomplish the goals and strategies adopted by the City Council. The plan is a management tool that includes a framework for specific timelines, assignments, and resource allocations. It will be reviewed often and revised as needed during the budget process each year. Both the Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plan are available on our website.

Want to know?

What's Happening in American Canyon

Connect with
Your Neighbors www.nextdoor.com

Like us www.facebook.com
City of American Canyon
American Canyon Police Department

Check Us Out www.cityofamericancanyon.org

Share your Ideas,
Opinions &
Questions. We're
Listening www.EngageAC.com

Subscribe to the
City Manager's
Twice Monthly
Friday Update publicinfo@cityofamericancanyon.org
707-647-4360

See Click Fix
Let us know about
potholes, graffiti,
water wasters, etc To sign up & learn about the
mobile app, go to "report a
problem" on our homepage



Water Conservation Efforts

Current Situation & Forecast

While none of us can see into the future, we need to be ready for the possibility that enough snow and rain may not come again this year. Unfortunately, even if we end up with a "normal" amount of precipitation, it would still not be enough to overcome low soil moisture and water storage conditions this year. As the winter progresses, the State Water Resources Board will be making decisions about water availability this year. We will do our best to keep you informed - stay tuned to our website and subscribe to the City Manager's Friday Update by emailing us at publicinfo@cityofamericancanyon.org.

In American Canyon, like the whole of California, we must realize that water efficiency is the new normal. We all need to do our part!

Current Water Restrictions

In July, 2014 the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations addressing water-wasting activities. These regulations were adopted by the City Council and are still in effect.

The following water wasting activities are prohibited:

- Washing down driveways and other paved surfaces with a hose
- Over watering lawns or landscaping creating runoff
- Watering lawns/landscaping or washing vehicles between noon and 6pm
- Using potable water in non-recirculating fountains
- Failure to repair controllable leaks

We can help you learn to deal with these restrictions, check out our water conservation page on the City's website or call the Water Conservation Specialist at (707) 647-4521.



Using Recycled Water

In 2014, American Canyon residents met the challenge and reduced water consumption by more than 10%. By the end of the year, 72% of residential customers were in the lowest use tier, using less than 8 units (1 unit = 748 gallons) per month. Even in the summer months we saw a decrease in the number of customers over tier 1 compared to the previous year. Hundreds of residents visited with our H2O Heroes Outreach Team at numerous events in the community to learn about how they could use water more efficiently and pick up free water-saving devices for their homes. City facilities, infrastructure, and processes were evaluated for water efficiency, resulting in modifications that saved over 12,000,000 gallons per year. Over 40,000 square feet of turf was removed from yards and commercial landscaping last year through our "Cash for Grass" program for a savings of nearly a million gallons of water per year! Another million gallons of water per year were saved through our toilet and washer rebate programs!

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

The Community Development Department is working on developing a new Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance to ensure that landscaping in new development is beautiful and water efficient in these times of drought and water scarcity. There will be opportunity to learn more and participate in this process in 2015.

Cash for Grass

Green turf can use more than 50% of your water budget in the warm and hot months. To get the biggest bang for your water conservation buck consider replacing some of that thirsty turf! The City offers a Cash for Grass program that pays \$1.00 for every square foot of turf grass that is replaced with drip irrigation, low water-use plants, permeable hardscape, or polyethylene or nylon artificial turf products. Commercial water customers can replace up to 2,500 sq ft and residential water customers can replace up to 750 sq ft. Program details and the application are available on the City's website.



Water Reclamation

Ever wondered what happens when you flush the toilet?

The short answer is - it goes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant! Wastewater consists of anything you put down a household drain – the toilet, sink, shower or washing machine. It also includes water used in industrial, manufacturing or cleaning processes that eventually goes down the drain. Our Wastewater Treatment Plant came online in 2002 and it was one of the first plants in California to utilize membrane bioreactor technology. Eleven highly skilled employees operate the plant and work hard to keep us in compliance with myriad environmental laws. The American Canyon Wastewater Plant uses a multi-step process to treat the water and solids that are received into the plant. Treated water is either released to the Napa River or recycled for landscape and agricultural use.

So, how does it work?

- When the water is received at the Plant it goes through the headworks where large screens and microscreens remove some of the solid materials like the superhero your three year old flushed or any moist wipes that should never be flushed. The solid waste from this process is sent to a dumpster and taken to the landfill as waste.
- The water and very small solid waste, less than 2mm, then travels to trains which are deep, long channels where the membrane filtration cassettes are located. The flow of wastewater is continuously coming in and going out of the trains.
- This water is combined with good bacteria that lives in the trains, air is pumped in which makes it bubble, and pumps circulate the water. The air never stops, just gets faster and slower, while microscopic holes in the “spaghetti” like membranes allow water only to be sucked up like a straw and travel inside them and up to the next stop.
- If the water is being released it goes through UV disinfection to sterilize the water before it is released to the Napa River via the wetlands.
- If the water is being recycled, chlorine is added to kill any remaining bacteria.
- Any remaining solid matter in the trains and “retired” good bacteria is then sent to the sludge pond. The sludge in the sludge pond will now be combined with a polymer to help bind the solids together and then to the screwpress to squeeze out as much water as possible. The water that is squeezed out will go back to the beginning of the process and take the trip again. The solids are taken to the landfill to be used as cover material.

In 2015 the plant will undergo several maintenance upgrades to make it even more effective and efficient.



Pam Phillips with a sample of water before and after the treatment process.



Constructed Wetlands pond. This is one stop our water takes on the way to the Napa River.



Plant of the Year Tour at headworks in May 2014.



Environmental Specialist Pam and Operator Josh working together at the Plant.



Operators Josh McCauley & Hongwu Zhang with Plant Manager Jay Atkinson.

City of American Canyon

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

We all like to have good neighbors. Here are some tips to return the favor.

Animals – Dogs need to be kept on a leash in all public areas, including streets, schools and parks, except in designated dog parks. It's not neighborly to let your dog loose in the neighborhood or to let it bark for long periods – It's also against the rules! For problems with barking or loose dogs call Animal Services at 253-4451.



Community – Be friendly, it pays off! Get to know your neighbors, have a neighborhood yard sale, join www.nextdoor.com or form a Neighborhood Watch Group with the Police Department. Contact Ryan Woolworth at 551-0605 or ryan.woolworth@countyofnapa.org



Garbage Cans – Cans should be stored alongside the house, not in front. On garbage pickup day, return cans to their storage spot promptly after pickup. Problems with your garbage service? Call Recology at 552-3110.



Garage/Yard Sales – Yard Sales are a great way to get to know your neighbors and get rid of junk too! You can have up to six sales per year, and each one can last up to three consecutive days. Be sure to take down your signs after the sale. Placing signs on public signs, even on the pole part, in the right-of-way or on utility poles is messy AND against the law. See our website for a brochure.



Community Wide Yard Sale - Every year the City hosts a Community Wide Yard Sale the weekend following Memorial Day. For 2015 the sale is scheduled for May 29, 30 and 31 and you can participate one, two or all three days. Sign up for FREE and we'll do the advertising! Sign up forms will be available on the City's website in March or call (707) 647-5305.

Graffiti – Quick removal is key to discouraging further graffiti. Removal of graffiti is the responsibility of the property owner but many church and local service organizations will help you if you ask. Report graffiti on public property to 647-4550 or use See Click Fix.



Lawn, Trees & Shrubs – Your yard doesn't have to be fancy, just maintained! If you're too busy, local yard service is available at reasonable prices! Unkempt yards are good signals to bad guys that you are not home. Trees and shrubs must not grow into the sidewalk and fire hydrants must have a three foot clearance.



Rodent Problems – Yuck! Don't let trash pile up or place abandoned furniture/appliances in your yard. For online information and help to get rid of rodents, check with the Napa County Mosquito Abatement District at www.napamosquito.org/rodents.



RV's, Campers, Boats & Trailers – You can store them on private property but they must be on a paved surface. Don't park them in the street for long periods of time, the neighbors won't like it and leaving it there for more than 72 hours is a violation of the State Vehicle Code. People are not allowed to live in or use them as an extension of home. Questions or complaints call Code Enforcement at 647-4599.

Slow Down – Drive slowly in any neighborhood, yours or someone else's. Be respectful of the people who live there and their safety – hopefully they'll return the favor! The speed limit in most neighborhoods is 25 MPH.



Slow Down Even More – Get out and walk around. Ride your bike. We are lucky to have such a beautiful trail system in American Canyon and the surrounding areas. Enjoy it! Walking will help you become familiar with your neighborhood, your neighbors, and it's good exercise too!



Street Lights – Don't be in the dark! Report non-working lights by calling 647-4550 or use See Click Fix.

Street & City Issues – It's easy to report pot holes, downed signs, illegal dumping, water leaks, etc. Call 647-4550, complete the online form on the City website or use See Click Fix.

Street Sweeping - Streets are swept on the next business day after your trash pickup, every other week. Help keep your neighborhood looking great by moving your car off the street on sweeping day! It is important for the sweeper to remove oil, trash and weeds that can damage asphalt and look unsightly. Questions? Call Recology at (707) 552-3110.

Suspicious Activity – Keep an eye out for your neighbors. If you hear or see something, don't hesitate to call 911! The Police would much rather have you call and it be nothing than to not call at all and it be something bad. If you need police assistance but it's not an emergency, try the non-emergency dispatch at 648-0171.



Vehicles – Vehicles parked on city streets need to be operable with current registration and insurance. To report an inoperable or abandoned vehicle contact the Police Dept. at 551-0600. Be sure not to block the sidewalks! If a vehicle must be in public view, even if it's on private property it must be in running condition. Questions or complaints call Code Enforcement at 647-4599.



Noise – Keep it down – for the neighbor's sake!