



What's Happening in Sitka?

Municipal Election: Vote October 1

Your voice matters! Today, October 1, is the final day to cast your vote and make it count. Whether you vote by mail, fax, or in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall, be sure to make your vote count. Visit the City's [website](#) for full details!

Let's Make a Splash Blatchley Pool!

The Blatchley Middle School Pool is reopening to the public in the next month, and we've got a new aquatics manager starting October 1. Get ready for swimming fun and aquatics programs—just in time for fall! For more information about aquatic activities and fun events visit <https://sitka.recdesk.com/Community/Home>



Mark Your Calendars

The Sitka Public Library has fun events lined up from geography trivia to a Halloween Babies and Books event on October 26, author talks, and more-- there's something for everyone. You won't want to miss the magic of Reading Wonderland in December too! For a complete list of events visit and follow the Sitka Library on [social media](#).

The Great Sitka Outage: A Thank You, Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa.

During the 2024 Internet and Phone Outage, Sitka stood strong! Thanks to our partners like Royal Caribbean, Tlingit & Haida, and local businesses, we kept the community connected. With satellite-based terminals and quick responses, we showed that together, we can tackle anything! Check out the City's complete press release [here](#) for more information.

Sustainable Sitka

Green Lake Hydroelectric Project: Going Strong

Sitka is proud of our 99.9% renewable energy! The Green Lake Hydro Project has powered our city since 1982, and now it's getting a facelift to keep the lights on for the next 40 years and beyond. This critical update is well underway, ensuring clean, reliable energy for decades to come. We plan to share more updates online and via social media!



Sitka Staff at work for YOU



Nearly three years ago we kicked off a five-year strategic plan built from the foundation of needs and priorities of the Sitka community and Assembly. In the next month we will be gathering City department heads and Assembly members to discuss the progress of year two and the goals and actions for year three in 2025.

Goal 1: Preserve the Quality of Life and Affordability:

Sitka is making strides in housing, zoning for mobile homes, and reducing utility costs.

Goal 2: Strengthen Communication & Relationships:

Communication plans are in place, and efforts are ongoing to engage underrepresented communities and collaborate with local organizations.

Goal 3: Sustainability: Financial forecasting is being improved, with progress on tourism policies and business support services.

Goal 4: Sustainable Infrastructure: Several grants have been submitted to enhance local infrastructure, with projects in transportation and harbor facilities.

Goal 5: CBS as a Great Workplace: Workforce training, a new HR system, and communication improvements are positioning CBS as an excellent employer and service provider.

For a complete list of progress updates, stay tuned for a full report following the Assembly and Sitka staff workshop in November! We will also be sharing strategic plan updates regularly on our social media channels. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as we continue to grow the future together!



Love Sitka? Help shape its future by serving on the newly formed Tourism Commission! This 7-member team will guide strategies to advise the Assembly on the best path forward for Sitka residents. [Apply](#) by October 15 to make your mark!

City Administrator's Corner

Haul Out Update

After years of traveling to other communities, local vessel owners can soon haul out right here. CBS, GPIIP Board of Directors, SEDA, and consultant and engineer partners are teaming together on this project and have plans to start hauling boats in early 2025. Thanks to an \$8.2M investment approved by Sitkans from the hospital sale in 2022, we're moving closer to Phase 1's completion.

Curious about Phase 2? We've got big plans for expanding the shipyard—stay tuned for updates including utility installation, short and long-term storage, and public restrooms!

Airport Renovation

Big things are happening at the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport! Our terminal is getting a much-needed makeover, tackling outdated infrastructure to enhance your travel experience. We're expanding, upgrading, and making it smoother for you. Stay tuned as we work through Phase 1 of the project that is expected to be completed in June 2025. Phase 2, renovation of the existing terminal will commence shortly thereafter.

Oh, and fun fact-- Did you know Alaska Airlines owns our jet bridge?



Housing Development: Expanding Possibilities

Housing is a hot topic here in Sitka! We will be completing a study to unlock city-owned land for housing development. As a first step in the study, the complete inventory of city-owned lands will be analyzed to determine the most promising areas for more intensive study. Heavily focused on the geotechnical, environmental, and engineering aspects of land development, the results of this study will tell us where our best opportunities for housing development are, how much housing can be built, and the cost of making it a reality. Keep an eye out for updates as we work to improve housing availability and affordability in Sitka!

**Tune into KCAW with John Leach
each month!**

City Administrator, John Leach, has been taking on hot topics in Sitka, live on KCAW radio. Tune in on Thursday, October 17, and Thursday, October 31, at 8:16am to keep up with his next updates! <https://www.kcaw.org>.

