



SUMMER, 2020

GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP

GRANITE FALLS POLICE

Police reform is a conversation (and in some cases an overdue one) in many cities across the nation. Here in Granite Falls, we contract our local law enforcement through the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. But we still exercise some control over these services. For example, the City must approve of an assigned Chief and provide him/her with our preferred direction for community policing.

Current Chief Tom Dalton explains, "I met with (City Manager) Brent Kirk when I was promoted. As a result, we are very community oriented. We ask local businesses, local government and citizens in general to report anything suspicious so we can quickly address issues whether they are large or small."

He is pleased to partner with the Sheriff's Office of Neighborhoods, where teams consisting of a social worker and deputy work with people in need. Each team assists an individual to help them with necessary steps such as obtaining identification, addiction or mental health treatment, housing, and even employment. "Our success rate is high for those who choose to follow the social worker's recommendations," Dalton says.

At the June 7 Black Lives Matter march in town, the Chief and deputies escorted the peaceful crowd from the high school to City Hall without incident.

Each year, deputies must complete refresher classes on Crisis Intervention Technique, Domestic Violence training, Use of Force, and Essential Skills Training. They are trained in de-escalation tactics. They must also recertify annually in use of a Taser and other techniques designed to control a suspect if needed. Dalton emphasizes, "ALL use of force situations MUST be reported to the appropriate supervisor."

In other local police news, the Department is finally getting a modern, safe facility. They have been housed in an old, cramped and dilapidated video store. The City is purchasing a new pre manufactured building to replace the old one this fall. The Police Department is temporarily housed in the old City Hall building.



(Left) The old police station



(Right) Local Black Lives Matter marchers



(Right) Some of the local marchers signed anti-racism pledges and taped them to City Hall. No damage was done.

GRANITE FALLS RECEIVES FUNDING FROM CARES ACT

The City of Granite Falls received \$117,000 from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As of this writing, the City Council has approved allocations for residential utility billing relief through Volunteers of America, personal protection equipment supplies, a new contactless fingerprint scanner for the police department, first responder child care via the Boys and Girls Club, and a small business grant program for rent relief. Discussions are underway for the remaining funds.

Cloth Face Covering Do's & Don'ts:

DO:

- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

DON'T:

- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for healthcare workers



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

RELIABLE INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT COVID 19

Snohomish County Health District	www.SNOHD.org
Washington State Health Dept.	www.DOH.wa.gov
U.S. Centers for Disease Control	www.CDC.gov
World Health Organization	www.WHO.int
Assn of Washington Businesses	www.AWB.org



SPOTLIGHT ON CITY MANAGER BRENT KIRK

Ten years ago the City hired Brent Kirk in the Public Works department. Raised in Lake Stevens, Brent already knew our community and fit right in. Four years later he was promoted to City Administrator, and then two years after that he became our City Manager in 2016.

Since then, he has overseen historic growth including annexed expansion of the City limits, and the population near doubling.

With the City Council's direction and community's vision, he is most proud of the fiscal stability he has built, which allowed updated amenities like the new playground equipment in Jim Holm Park and the new Civic Center and City Hall building.

Brent lives by his motto that "the City can do more with less for its citizens." The results are certainly evident, from new roads and sidewalks to the Boys and Girls Club facility as part of the over 7 million dollars acquired in grant funding.

Brent enjoys working for the community, and under the City Council's lead. "Our elected officials, along with a passionate group of younger citizens and both long-time and new residents are fostering a vision for the future that supports responsible growth while embracing the history of the City, and preserving the small town values that make Granite Falls such an attractive place to live."

He adds, "It truly is a great time to be part of this City and all it has to offer."



FROM MAYOR MATT HARTMAN

Turbulent times, indeed. Between the growth of our city, a pandemic that shut down the country, the possibility of a recession, new rules/regulations for workplaces, and racial protests, I think most everyone is wondering, "what's next?"

Instead of trying to anticipate our next fate, I believe we should all examine our core values, and do our best to improve relations with our fellow human beings. My default is to look toward kindness, empathy, and compassion, with the tenet: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. A new world is being ushered in, and we all owe it to each other to do the right thing, and live in integrity.

With this writing, the city is currently in Phase 2. Hair salons, restaurants (with limited seating), dog groomers, yoga studios, and retail shops are now (hopefully) back open for business. Please do everything you can to patronize our local businesses, and let them know how "essential" they are to our community.

Throughout the stay home edict, the Mayors' of Snohomish County met many times via teleconferencing, to discuss anything and everything we could do to keep our cities stable, to minimize the financial and social impact, and to offer our help to neighboring communities. We wrote many letters to the Governor, the Health District, and our County Executive. Our consistent message was: Help us keep our people safe, and our businesses secure. We found that we all felt the same way, and were able to communicate our thoughts with a collective voice. We felt that when the entire group signed the same document, our voice would be much louder than if we all sent a message individually. I believe that our voices were heard.

I watched a peaceful march that was organized by High School kids on Sunday, June 7, and it brought tears to my eyes. To see that many people (I counted over 300) band together with their own collective voice about racial injustice, and let the world know that this needs to be dealt with NOW, filled my heart with joy and sadness at the same time. Joy that the march was organized and peaceful, and sad because racial inequality still exists. I commend everyone who participated.

Lastly, this month's "spotlight on a city employee" is about our City Manager, Brent Kirk. A story should be shared: As reported by our Police Chief, Brent was in town for the civil march. Expecting that people might want to use the public restrooms, Brent unlocked the doors, and found that the restrooms were in serious need of a cleaning. He cleaned them himself. He didn't complain, he didn't call for help, he just did it. He is selfless, caring and always there to lend a hand. Only in Granite. I'm proud to live here.

CONTACT US

Granite Falls City Hall
215 S. Granite Avenue
PO Box 1440
Granite Falls, WA 98252
360-691-6441 telephone
360-691-6734 fax



Stop by to register to vote, pick up community information, a map of Granite Falls, pay your water bill, or just say hello!

- Open 8:30am—5:00pm Mondays thru Thursdays
- Open 8:30am—noon Fridays
- Closed on legal holidays

Visit our website

www.GraniteFallsWA.gov

GRANITE FALLS CITY COUNCIL

The City Council meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. City Council work sessions are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

- Mayor Matt Hartman *term expires 2024*
- Councilmember Tom FitzGerald *term expires 2021*
- Councilmember Steven Glenn *term expires 2021*
- Councilmember Erin Hogan *term expires 2024*
- Councilmember Bruce Straughn *term expires 2021*

GRANITE FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Seat 1 – Julie Cory-Wyman
Seat 2 – Ronald Stephenson
Seat 3 – Frederick Cruger (Chair)
Seat 4 – Removed by Ordinance
Seat 5 – Monica Hoersting
Seat 6 – Scott Morrison

- **For after hours water or sewer emergencies call Public Works at 425-583-1781 or call 9-1-1**
- **For police or fire emergencies call 9-1-1**