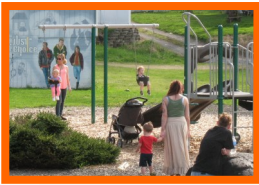




GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP



City of Granite Falls

WINTER, 2018

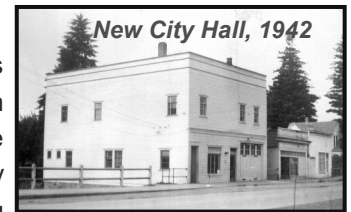
Granite Falls — A City on the Move!

After years of planning and land acquisition, the Granite Falls City Council is moving forward with a preliminary design for the long awaited new Civic Center, which will provide indoor and outdoor space for community events and gatherings as well as office space for a new City Hall. With the City's population projected to grow by 25% or more over the next five years, this facility is designed to revitalize the downtown corridor and address the current and future needs of the community.



History

The original city hall was built in 1893 as the Granite Falls school house. It was moved to its current location in 1910 when a new school was built, and became a combined City Hall/Fire Department. In 1942 the building was demolished to make way for the current city hall. During the past 75 years, the building



has been remodeled and reconfigured to include (at one time or another) the fire department, police department, and jail, in addition to serving as our city hall and public works department.



Today

Over the past several years, the current City Hall has had numerous structural problems, public safety concerns, lack of ADA compliance, and no space to expand staffing or records storage. The public works department is currently in the basement, which is nearly uninhabitable.

It's time to grow.

The Civic Center will feature a large community space, conference room, kitchen, and separate rest rooms on one side of the building. There will also be a plaza with outdoor seating. The City Hall portion will provide office space for staff, a common work area, break room and restrooms. The entire complex will be built on property next to the current police station with space for a future addition to the building as needed.

After the civic center is complete, we'll continue to use the existing city hall building to provide long term storage space for files, etc and temporarily house Public Works while we work on a long range plan for the building.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Granite Falls Public Works Supervisor Charles White

Charles joined our public works department in 2011, after three years working primarily on the water system for Gold Bar. He also has electrical, manufacturing, and management experience in his background. He's seen substantial and effective change happen in the department since he started.

"When I came here we had no asset management program or even a dedicated maintenance schedule. Today we try our best to stay on top of issues before they happen, and track assets like catch basins, water lines, fire hydrants and so on. Upkeep, upgrade, and maintenance happens on a regular basis, which of course saves a lot of money in the long run."

There are six permanent full-time employees in the Public Works Department. Three of them work at the waste water treatment plant 100% of the time. The other three (including Charles) take care of everything else, such as streets and building maintenance and repair. The City augments with seasonal employees at times like the mowing season.

As Public Works Supervisor, Charles is also in charge of scheduling, and balancing esthetics like parks and sidewalks. In the past few years, the City has partnered with the Department of Corrections to provide community work crews to help with cleanup and gardening.

Contact Us

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98252

360-691-6441 phone
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Hours:
Open 8:30am-5:00pm
Mondays-Thursdays
8:30am-12:00pm Fridays
Closed on legal holidays

For after hours water or sewer emergencies, call Public Works at 425- 583-1781 or call 911.

**FOR POLICE OR FIRE
EMERGENCIES, CALL 911.**

COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF

On the third Wednesday of each month, residents can meet with Police Chief Chris Ferreria to discuss public safety issues. The meetings start at 5:30pm at the Granite Falls Fire District #17 station, at 116 S. Granite.



PLANNING COMMISSION

The Granite Falls Planning Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm upstairs at City Hall. Residents are welcome!

CITY COUNCIL

The Granite Falls City Council meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month with a public comment period. Meetings are held upstairs at City Hall. Special accommodation needs must be requested at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

2018 City Council

- Matt Hartman (Mayor)
- Tom FitzGerald
- Steve Glenn
- Erin Hogan
- Bruce Straughn



Upcoming City Projects

Winter is when city crews perform routine sewer manhole inspections, preventative maintenance, and work on 5 labor-intensive annual reports required by the County and State. This winter the Public Works Department is also continuing their work with Suncrest subdivision, and changing out the old water meters with new radio read meters that provide valuable water usage data for the City and its utility accounts.

Maintaining and improving our city's multi-million dollar infrastructure is not possible with the limited revenues generated by property, business, and sales taxes. Cities like ours depend on government grants for major and minor projects. We received word that four of the Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grants we applied for were approved. That means our public works crew will be doing over \$1,000,000 worth of asphalt road overlays and sidewalk projects this coming summer.

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The City Council recently approved the purchase of the Train Property on the corner of Stanley Street and Cascade Avenue. The property is intended to be used as public park space, and possibly house a visitor center in the future. Councilmembers are also actively engaging State Legislators to pass a capital budget that would include some funding for:

- A Boys & Girls Club gymnasium combined with a community services campus on Galena Street near Alder Avenue
- A Department of Ecology grant funding a sidewalk project on the first block of Kentucky Avenue and the south side of Union Street from Granite Avenue to Indiana Avenue. This project would be similar to the permeable sidewalks on Wabash Avenue.

2018 is going to be a busy year for the City, and the City Council appreciates all of the support from the community as these projects move forward.