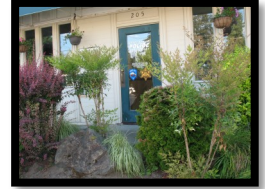




Summer 2018

# GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP



## GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CIVIC CENTER

On June 22, several citizens and local, county, and state dignitaries gathered for the official groundbreaking of the new civic center, to be located across the street from the existing city hall.

Mayor Matt Hartman thanked Granite Falls citizens for “voting to make this town a better place,” and specifically cited the vote to change the form of government to a Council-Manager form. “The whole reason our community is where we’re at, with the new sidewalks, managed growth, and now the new civic center, is because the citizens of Granite Falls made it happen. That change allowed us to compete with every other city in the State. It allowed us to have a person who understands government finance, who knows how to professionally supervise staff, who has been able to do more for the community in the short time he’s been City Manager than anyone,” referring to Brent Kirk.

Granite Falls Historical Society spokesperson Fred Cruger gave a short history of the first and existing city halls, adding “This will be the first City Hall we’ve built that doesn’t have a door wide enough to accommodate a fire truck!” He also talked about the city improvements to streets, sidewalks, parks, and the new civic center, saying “We are currently seeing historic changes taking place.” He praised the Council and Kirk’s leadership for “their wise oversight of tax dollars,” and invited Kirk to share the story of how the City purchased over \$80,000 of furnishings for the civic center for just \$5,000.



*Left: Granite Falls City Council breaks ground.*

*Right: Granite Falls Historical Society member Fred Cruger speaks.*



In addition to the Mayor, city council, planning commission, and city staff, State Representative Carolyn Eslick, Judge Kristen Olbrechts, City Building Official Tim Nordtvedt, City Inspector Dick LaChapelle, School District Superintendent Linda Hall, School Board members Dave Green and Robert Butler, Food Bank Director Stephanie Sherry, and representatives of the Granite Falls Fire District #17 and Granite Falls Police were among the celebratory crowd.

Construction is expected to be done in early February, 2019.

Snohomish County Council member Nate Nehring took the opportunity to present the City with a \$60,000 check for new street lighting on Kentucky.

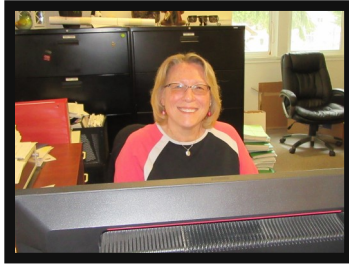


## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT THANKS VISITORS

Granite Falls Eagle Scout Dawson Holm had an idea for his culminating project: a sign thanking people for visiting Granite Falls. After presenting the idea to the City Council and getting approval, he went to work. The result is the new permanent sign located just prior to the roundabout. Mayor Matt Hartman said, “Dawson came to the City Council with this idea. Every councilmember looked at it and thought it was phenomenal. It reflects how our community welcomes and thanks visitors.”



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ON BECKY AIKEN



It's a common sight at City Hall: a dog pulling its owner by the leash into the front door and up to the reception window. Most dogs in town know where the best treats are, and Granite Falls Utilities Clerk Becky Aiken has their favorite. One dog owner said, "I could just pay the water bill by mail, but Pugsy loves to see Becky and get a treat." Planning Commissioner Fred Cruger calls her "the snack lady" and his dog Duffy seems to agree. (Cruger supplies the dog treats.) Becky says, "My regulars come in all the time. Some are repeat visitors during the week."

Working for the city since 2009, Becky enjoys talking with residents who come into City Hall, and loves getting to know the four legged locals. Her job includes welcoming visitors, answering questions and phone calls, handling utility billing, accounts payable and receivable, scheduling required inspections and filling in when City Clerk Darla Reese is absent. Becky is married to Keith and has 3 four-legged friends of her own: Kodi, Anni, and Lexi.

## Granite Falls Achieves Low Interest Rate / Civic Center Bond Moves Forward

The City of Granite Falls just recently finished the process of issuing Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds to finance the construction of the new City Hall / Civic Center.

During the Spring, the City researched various financing options and eventually selected JP Morgan Chase Bank for a direct purchase with a fixed interest rate of 2.94% for the 15-year limited tax general obligation bond financing. The Bond will be funding approximately \$3,000,000, which will cover 80% of the cost of construction.

"We timed the financing while interest rates are still low," said Mayor Matt Hartman. "We are always looking for ways to save money and we are very pleased with the results of the bank bids."

"The low interest rate offers from the banks are a positive reflection on our local economy and the prudent financial management of the City over the past decade," said City Manager Brent Kirk. "The City received nine bids from various banks. It was interesting dealing with questions from the banks as they conducted their credit reviews, but the process was pretty straight forward and efficient. Shopping for what is essentially a bond qualified loan saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars over traditional bond financing methods."

Kirk worked closely with Jim Nelson of D.A. Davidson's Public Finance Department, (who served as placement agent for the financing) on structuring the limited tax general obligation bonds, as well as overseeing the process of getting bids from the banks and compiling the necessary documents for the bank's due diligence. Construction began June 11.

## MUSEUM RECEIVES AWARD

Brent Kirk recently represented the Granite Falls Historical Museum at the State Capital in Olympia when the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation recognized the Granite Falls Museum's continuous work with the "Preservation Education Award". The education achievement award is from Dr. Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer. In her speech, she praised the "digital environment" and "geographic information system technology" as key to the museum's efforts to make local history "available to all." The work was largely under the direction of museum member Fred Cruger.



The museum is located at 109 S. Union, and is open on Sundays, noon to 5pm.

## COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF

On the third Wednesday of each month, residents can meet with Police Chief Chris Ferreria to discuss public safety issues. 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!

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

[www.GraniteFallsWA.gov](http://www.GraniteFallsWA.gov)



## NEW IN TOWN?

*New residents can pick up a Welcome brochure with map at City Hall, register to vote, and sign up for water (as well as pay a water bill.)*

## Contact Us

Granite Falls City Hall  
206 S. Granite Avenue  
PO Box 1440  
Granite Falls, WA 98252

360-691-6441 phone  
360-691-6734 fax

Open 8:30am—5:00pm  
Mondays—Thursdays  
8:30am—noon 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**