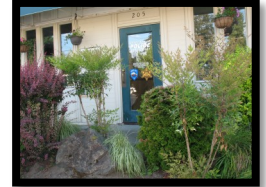




Winter 2019

GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP



GRANITE FALLS CIVIC CENTER ALMOST DONE!

The new Granite Falls Civic Center is almost ready for its debut. The combined facility will house offices for City Hall and Public Works, and feature a large Community Center area, with lobby, a 300 square foot conference room, a kitchen and restrooms, and a 1,600 square foot multi-purpose grand room. In addition to City Council and Planning Commission meetings, the rooms will be available for local events, business conferences, weddings, and other celebrations. The grand room will feature large viewing screens, dimmable and spot lights, and plenty of windows. Anticipated completion date is now mid March.

In late December, City Councilmembers Tom FitzGerald, Steven Glenn and Planning Commission member Scott Morrison toured the interior with City Manager Brent Kirk. Catherine Anderson and Law Enforcement Secretary Carol Bello joined the party.



Future City Hall office space



City Hall reception area



Main public lobby

MAYOR OF 'FRIGHTENING FALLS' GRANITE FALLS FOOD BANK

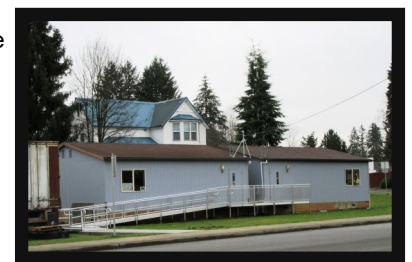
At the December 19, 2018 City Council meeting, Granite Falls Police Chief Chris Ferreria presented law enforcement secretary Carol Bello with a special plaque of appreciation for her vision and dedication to creating the now annual 'Frightening Falls Halloween Block Party', which has mushroomed into a community-wide event. Carol was dubbed the **Mayor of Frightening Falls for 2019**.



Shown: Carol Bello, Mayor Matt Hartman, and Chief Ferreria

The Granite Falls Food Bank and The Father's House Food Bank are operating jointly out of the church's location at 402 S. Granite Avenue. The food distribution bank is in the alley behind the church. Open monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 9:30am—11:00am, and the first and third Fridays from 4:30pm—6:30pm.

The donated portables on the opposing corner of Pioneer and S. Granite avenue serve as a warehouse and office. Granite Falls Food Bank Manager Stephannie Sherry is working on raising funds for a permanent facility by either purchasing an existing building in town or possibly constructing a new building that could be located on City property. If you would like to help with a donation or serve as a volunteer, please contact her at 360-691-4253. The Granite Falls Food Bank is overseen by the non-profit Granite Falls Community Coalition.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ON TRAVIS AMES

After 10 years on the job, Public Works employee Travis Ames says what he likes best about working for the City is, "There is always something to do, and it's always different!"

As noted, Travis joined the City 2009. He grew up in northern California and the Rogue Valley area of Oregon. After high school and a degree in Applied and Computer Science, he followed his parents to our area, when they moved here to work in construction. He also brought along his girlfriend Shawntay, who is now his wife. They have a 17 year-old son named Kaden and a 23 month-old daughter named Andi. The family will welcome a third child, due next month.



When asked about his hobbies, Travis laughed and said something every homeowner understands. "Once you buy a house it becomes your hobby!"

"You can usually find me in the garage refurbishing something old or making something new", he added. "In the spring and summer I like to work around the garden; there's not as much time for that these days."

He also enjoys shooting trap at the Granite Falls Sportman's Club, saying "It's always fun to powder a few clays when there's time."



The job keeps him busy year-round. Supervisor Charles White praises Travis as a skilled and dedicated worker, who often goes above and beyond for the community he serves. His attention to detail is also reflected in another hobby: carving pumpkins. He created a set of unique jack-o-lanterns for City Hall a couple years ago.

We hope he'll be inspired to carve again in the next ten years of his employment with the City!

STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

Contractors have completed the Kentucky Avenue and Union Street low impact development project. This project added stormwater infrastructure, angled parking along the south side of Union Street, upgraded ADA ramps, new pervious concrete sidewalks, and stormwater treatment facilities.

The project was funded in part through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

IMPROVED WATER METERS AND SEWAGE NOTE

Public Works staff has completed the conversion of all residential water meters to an AMR system (Automated Meter Reading). The new meters reduce reading errors, reduce staff reading time, and have the ability to alert us about potential leaks. Public Works staff have been replacing the over 1,300 meters in the City since 2011. There are now only a few larger commercial meters to complete the upgraded system.

Quick note about the sewer side of our City's infrastructure. As a reminder, please dispose of wipes and other personal care products properly. Despite the word 'flushable' on certain packaging, these products can wreak havoc on the City's sewer system, resulting in costly repairs.

Sewers are designed to safely dispose of two things: human waste and septic-safe toilet paper. Anything else can cause backup and clogs known as 'fatbergs', which are expensive and time consuming to clear, as well as creating a potential problem in your home.

PUBLIC WORKS IS ON THE MOVE!

The City's public works operations facility is moving from the current location in the basement of City Hall to a recently purchased property on Portage Avenue, formerly known as the Blacker Cabinet Shop. The building will provide a much more functional facility for staff, and offer additional room for equipment, tools, and storage. Improvements are being completed now, and they are expected to move in by the end of January.

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 Hanky Pies Restaurant, 106 Cascade Ave.

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



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**