



FALL 2020

GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP



BECAUSE YES, YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

There are some citizens who are concerned about their vote being delivered and counted on November 3, 2020. For clarification, here is the Washington Secretary of State's response:

It is essential to the integrity of an election that ballot processing be accurate and transparent, while maintaining your right to a secret ballot. After you return your voted ballot, your county elections department follows this ballot counting process:

1. *Your signature on the outer return envelope is checked against the signature on file in your voter registration record to make sure they match.*
2. *You are credited for voting in that election. This ensures that only one ballot from each voter is counted.*
3. *The outer return envelope, which identifies you, is then separated from the inner security envelope, which contains your voted ballot. Your ballot cannot be traced back to you, ensuring the secrecy of your vote.*
4. *All ballots are inspected to make sure the tabulating machine will be able to read all votes. Tabulation equipment is tested before every election to make sure it is working accurately. The above steps continue with all ballots until the election is certified.*

By the way, here in Snohomish County, you can track your ballot with the ballot status tool at VoteWA.gov, from the time it is mailed to you to the time it is received and accepted. **PLEASE VOTE.**



THANK YOU to local citizen Travis Ames, who designed and created this whimsical weatherproof sign for the Granite Falls Dog Park. Travis is one of our dedicated City employees in the Public Works Department that volunteered his time outside of work to create this sign.

Civic Leaders Attend DEI Workshops

Between September and December, several civic and community leaders are attending monthly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshops via Zoom, with seminar leader Greg Taylor of Community Connection Consulting.

As Granite Falls continues to grow, we are welcoming more cultural diversity to the residential population in our community. The purpose of the training is for community leaders to increase their understanding and insight into issues involving race, and develop concrete steps to address systemic oppression. Among the participants are representatives from the City Council and City staff, Planning Commission, Granite Falls School Board and school district leaders, Police and Fire Departments and the Sno-Isle Library.



Greg Taylor,
Facilitator

Greg Taylor is a professional speaker, diversity consultant, and facilitator, with more than 30 years of experience.

CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Civil work that has been completed on the **new police building** included paving the entire alley from Galena Street to the new City Hall, adding 15 additional public parking spaces, and creating a "Civic Park" open space grass area between the new City Hall/Civic Center and the upcoming new Police Station for public events held on S. Granite Ave (like Show n Shine, RR Days, Halloween, etc.) The site is now ready to receive the new building, which is scheduled to arrive the week of November 23. Final completion is scheduled for January of 2021.

The **new asphalt overlay project** on Galena Street from Prospect Avenue to Cascade Avenue is now complete. It included a new road surface and bringing pedestrian ramps up to current requirements for ADA compliance. **A long section** of Jordan Road which was in pretty bad shape, was also paved with a new road surface. Both projects were 90% paid for through a grant from the State Transportation Improvement Board. **The Jordan road project** also involved installing a new section of water line from Burn Road to Hemming Way to add redundancy and an extension to the water system.

The **empty brick house** on the corner of Galena and Cascade, built but never completed in 1991, has been removed. The City purchased the property to be used as grassy open space for public events held on that block of Cascade Avenue, such as a farmer's market. There is also the potential to use the land for more public parking downtown as the City grows. Since there are no residential homes on that block and the City now owns the parcels of land on both ends of that block, the entire first block of Cascade Avenue can be shut down for public events in the future with no disruption to local residents in the area.



This issue we give you a brief guideline about project permits. As always, call us for more information about your particular project.

Retaining walls: Typically no permit is required if the wall is under four (4) feet in height. Over four feet requires a permit for structural purposes.

Fences: No permit is required, but the fence can only be 6' tall maximum height for rear and side yards, and it can't block sight distance for traffic at intersections on corner lots. Front yard can only be 4' high with solid fencing, but 6' options are possible (i.e. cyclone or top 2' transparent.) Please contact the City with the layout where your fence is being installed on the property and the type of fencing to ensure that it doesn't violate city code. HOA approval does not equate to City approval for fences.

Patios: There is a maximum 70% impervious surface overage for your lot, so make sure to check with the City on the size and location of any concrete, asphalt, or gravel you plan to add to your lot in place of grass before moving forward. Typically no permit is required, but you don't want to violate City Code and have to tear something out.

Decks: Check with the City on size, shape, and height of any decks to see if they need a permit to address structural engineering and to make sure that they meet property line setbacks, etc.

Awnings/Patio & Deck Covers: Check with the City on permanent Awnings (cloth and roll-out style patio awnings typically do not require a permit) as they may require a permit and need to meet snow load requirements, so they don't collapse.



Over 2,000 free masks have been distributed by the City to area organizations to give to people in need. If that's you, check with the Granite Falls Food Bank, the Granite Falls Senior Center, the Granite Falls School Backpack Program, or stop by City Hall.

Here is a brief message from the Snohomish Health District: *This year, it's more important than ever to get a flu shot! It is a safe and effective way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community from influenza disease and its complications. Reducing the spread of flu will keep healthcare systems from being overwhelmed during the COVID outbreak. Visit [SNOHD.org](https://www.snohd.org) to learn more.*



AUTUMN LEAVES CAN BE FUN, but they can also cause problems if allowed to accumulate in or on catch basins. Clogged catch basins can lead to drainage problems in your neighborhood.

Help our city's Public Works Department staff keep our storm water drainage system working properly.

How You Can Help

- Clear leaves from catch basins near your (or your neighbor's) house or business. Dispose of leaves with yard waste.
- Clear other debris from on top of catch basins. Place this debris in a trash can.
- Sweep debris from your sidewalk and driveway. Put debris in a trash can, Don't sweep or blow it into a gutter or catch basin!
- Keep catch basins flowing during the winter by removing snow and ice from the grate.

THANK YOU!



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**