



Spring, 2021

# GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON

## GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN LOOP

### STATE OF THE CITY SPECIAL REPORT

by City Manager Brent Kirk

The past year has been a challenging one for our community and the staff at City Hall as we adapted to the changes triggered by the COVID 19 pandemic. City Staff has done an amazing job of being safe and responsible in their personal lives while showing up for work safely and effectively every day since the pandemic began. As a result, not a single City employee has contracted the virus.

2020 forced many changes in our citizens' lives and how the City operates. We moved to "virtual meetings" online for nearly everything from council meetings to our interactions with our State legislators and colleagues from other government agencies. However, it did not slow down the new housing construction or the progress with City capital projects. Due to the diligence of City elected leaders, staff, and partner organizations, 2020 saw the following initiatives move forward:

- ◆ 78 new single-family homes were permitted and built in 2020, adding to the total of over 450 new units of housing constructed in the City since the fall of 2017. 72 more new housing units are planned or currently under construction to be completed by the end of 2021. Since 2017, the City's population has grown by over 30%.
- ◆ In October of 2020, the City completed a road improvement project providing utility and roadway improvements along Jordan Road and West Galena Street. The City replaced an aging water main, paved the roadways with new asphalt, and constructed new sidewalks, ADA ramps, and curbing in the intersections of Galena Street. The Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funded 90% of the cost of the roadway project projects.
- ◆ The GF Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium/Multi-Use Building construction began at the end of 2020, and the Boys and Girls Club anticipates the building shell to be up by the end of April 2021. The goal is to have the building complete and ready for public use by the fall of 2021.



deputies. The new facility will be a shared resource for the surrounding Granite Falls community and the City residents. We expect to complete construction by April of 2021.

- ◆ The new Granite Falls Police Station building was set in place as a modular building in the fall of 2020 after all the civil work was complete. The City will use the building for local law enforcement services as well as a regional sub-station for Snohomish County Sheriff's

- ◆ The house north of the Police Station was purchased by the City and demolished in the fall of 2020. The City is currently improving the location as a large flat open space with irrigated grass area for public use and community events. This project extends the overall Downtown Civic Center Campus to include the entire second block of S. Granite Ave. As the City develops infrastructure focusing on the future, two electric vehicle charging stations were also installed in the alley parking area between the new police station and City Hall. This project finishes off Phase II of the Civic Center Campus on S. Granite Avenue.



- ◆ The City received grant funding from Snohomish County this year to pay for improvements to the basketball court area at Jim Holm Park. Improvements will include sealing the court floor and applying new paint lines, replacing backboards and hoops, adding fencing around the court, and installing benches in the court area and bleachers outside of the court for spectators.



- ◆ In 2021, the City is working on the design and actively seeking grant funding to construct the extension of Galena Street from Jordan Road behind Rite Aid to Portage Ave. This will provide a second main arterial through the City that should alleviate some of the traffic congestion at the intersection of Stanley St and Granite Ave and by providing an alternative route through the City for traffic traveling south to Robe Menzel Road and Menzel Lake Road. This road extension was identified as needed to accommodate traffic growth through the City over 20 years ago and the City now owns all of the property needed to construct the road.

- ◆ The City is also actively seeking funding for the design and eventual construction of the upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2021. The City needs approximately twenty million dollars to expand the capacity of the plant for future growth and to meet new state mandates for water quality discharge requirements into the receiving water of the Pilchuck River. Moving forward for the next few years, this will be the biggest challenge facing the City, as we are required to comply with future permit regulations from the Department of Ecology and provide the capacity needed to meet our future population targets mandated by the Washington State Growth Management Act.



## The \$20 Annual Car Tab Fee Benefits YOU

Before implementing the City's Transportation District in 2015, the City's only revenue for the Streets Operating Fund was a per capita share of the state's gas tax, which wasn't enough to cover the bare minimum level of service for repairs and maintenance of streets, sidewalks, traffic control devices, etc., in the City.

The \$20 per year car tab fee paid to the City via the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) provides the much-needed funding to protect and preserve transportation infrastructure in the City and provide a higher level of service to the community. The results are evident as the City's public works department consistently fills in potholes in a timely fashion, adds new pavement throughout the City to repair old roadways, repairs or replaces damaged sidewalks, efficiently plows snow to clear roads during winter storm events, and maintains safe and reliable equipment to use for streets related operation and maintenance activities.

The City's TBD generated \$86,000 in revenue from car tabs in 2020, which subsidized about 35% of the annual cost to maintain the roadways, sidewalks, and associated infrastructure in the City.

It costs roughly \$275,000 per year for salaries, benefits, equipment, fuel, repairs, supplies, and administration of the City's Streets utility to maintain its current service level. Without this critical funding source, the City would not be able to adequately repair, support, and preserve the City's transportation system.

### Granite Falls Public Library

Welcome to new Managing Librarian Chris Sorenson who replaced former manager Michelle Callahan in March. Chris has worked for the Sno-Isle Regional Library system since 2008, and most recently was Assistant Library Manager at the Mill Creek branch. He says Granite Falls reminds him of the community where he grew up in Bellevue, when it was still a small town.



The Granite Falls public library is currently offering contact-free pick up of holds and the return of physical library materials. In-building services are also available, including access to the full collection, use of public computers, and printing, copying, scanning and faxing.

If you live anywhere in the Sno-Isle Library System, your current library card is accepted at the Granite Falls Public Library. If you are new to the area, you can get your new library card for free at any of Sno-Isle Library

System's 21 community branches. The Granite Falls library is located at 815 East Galena Street.

Starting in April, the Granite Falls library hours are:

- Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am—7:00pm
- Wednesday through Saturday: 10:00am—6:00pm
- Sunday: 1:00pm—5:00pm

All online services and resources continue to be available at [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org). You can request items from their online catalog, and pick them up at the Granite Falls branch.



### INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Three positions on the City Council are up for election in November of 2021. The filing period is May 17th -21st. For more information on becoming a candidate visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5729/Run-for-Office> or call us at City Hall.

#### CONTACT US

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**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](http://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