THE UPDATE

January 2020

Council Highlights

Elected officials have been working on the following:

November 2019
Authorized making application for a broadband grant from Department of Commerce
Updated the City's Social Services Policy
Set the 2020 Regular Property Tax Levy
Set the 2020 EMS Tax Levy
Adopted the City's Six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2020-2025
Accepted the 2020 Public Art Proposals
Appointed Amie Verellen-Grubbs to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
Held a joint meeting with the Airport Commission and Planning Commission to discuss a historic partnership agreement with the Port of Everett
Announced the City's Intent to Explore Potential Benefits of Service with North County Regional Fire Authority (NCRFA)
Approved an Amended and Restated Contract with Waste Management

December 2019
Amended the 2019 budget
Modified the 2020 budget
Awarded a contract with Murraysmith to design the 2020 and 2021 Utility Pavement preservation projects
Awarded a contract with SCJ Alliance to design the Island Crossing Roundabout (SR-530 and Smokey Point Blvd)
Approved the 2020 lodging tax grant distributions
Approved a contract with the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office for Fire Investigation Services
Approved the salary schedule for non-represented employees for 2020
Appoint Scott Tomkins and Robert Anderson to the Airport Commission
Accepted a grant from the Transportation Improvement Board for a new signal and pedestrian improvements on SR-531 at 40th Ave NE
Awarded a contract for right of way acquisition work for the 204th St NE roundabout construction
Accepted grant funds to develop a housing action plan to address affordable housing

January 2020
Administered Oath of Office to Mayor Barb Tolbert and Council members Marilyn Oertle, Mike Hopson, and Michele Blythe
Presented of years of service awards to Arlington Fire Department employees
Completed open public records act training pursuant to Washington state law
Awarded contract to Heather Logan Consulting for human services work
Amended court and jail services agreements with Marysville
Reappointed Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin to serve as Snohomish Health District Board of Health Representative for all small cities in County Council District #1
Approved process for selecting new council member to replace Joshua Roundy
Awarded bid for Innovation Center remodel
Awarded design contract to Carletti Architects for new Fire Station 48
Authorized the Building Official to exempt buildings from code requirements for emergency temporary shelters
Adopted an interim agreement with Marysville for jail services
Adopted an updated fee schedule
Awarded a contract to Blueline Group for development of a Housing Action Plan
Awarded contract to Dowl Engineering for 2020 Airport improvement projects
Amended Arlington Municipal Code Chapter 13.12 to freeze 2020 utility rates
Awarded contract to Murraysmith Design Services for Cascade Industrial Center (CIC) utilities

Message from the Mayor

As busy as 2019 was for the City of Arlington, it is hard to imagine that 2020 could be any busier. And yet, it looks like that is going to hold true. Inside this latest edition of the Arlington Update you will find a summary of our 2019 accomplishments and a quick look at what's ahead for 2020 in plans and projects. Our 2020 plans include several road construction projects that will either be under construction or design. I encourage you to check our website for full details on each of these projects, as they could impact your travel about town.

In addition, we have provided information on new partnerships with the Port of Everett to further develop the Cascade Industrial Center to bring family-wage jobs right to our community. We have launched a new collaborative effort with Arlington Public Schools to provide career-connected learning to our local high school students through summer internships with our local businesses. Information on how you can participate in this exciting new program is available inside.

Also included is some important information on your essential participation in the 2020 Census. Why is it important to respond and count everyone in your home? For one thing, the Census determines how local government funding is disbursed. For every person who is counted, about $2,000 will go to a local community. In this fast-growing region, the City of Arlington and Snohomish County need to receive our fair share of federal funds. To help make sure each person in Arlington is counted, the City will have computers available at select locations to complete the census should you not have access to a computer or the internet access.

I hope you will take the time to participate in your local government as we continue planning for our city's future. Inside we have included several opportunities for you to become directly involved. As long as we can continue planning ahead with our residents and businesses, we can ensure that we will build the best city possible for Arlington.

The Arlington Update only includes a small number of pieces on the important work we are doing here at the City of Arlington. I encourage you to sign up for our e-newsletter to receive weekly updates about City of Arlington efforts. Visit www.arlingtonwa.gov/enews to sign up.

You make me proud to be Mayor of Arlington and I am sincerely honored to continue to serve you.

Mayor Barb Tolbert

Council Member Joshua Roundy Announces Resignation

Arlington City Council member Joshua Roundy announced his resignation from the City Council for personal reasons effective January 12, 2020. Council member Roundy was elected to the City Council in November 2017.

In his resignation, Council Member Roundy stated, "I want to thank the City of Arlington, the staff, the council, the mayor, and the voters of our community for the great opportunity. I have valued my time on the council and wish everyone the best moving forward."

Of Council member Roundy's announcement, Mayor Barb Tolbert shared the following sentiment, "I appreciate Josh's service to the Arlington community and understand his need to put his family first. I wish Josh and his family good health and continued success in their endeavors."

Information on the process to fill the vacancy on the City Council, including the application, is available on the City's website at www.arlingtonwa.gov. Applications for the vacancy will be accepted until February 5, 2020.

City Meetings

Check our website calendar for the latest information

City Council Meeting 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m. Council Chambers 110 E Third St. 360-403-3441
City Council Workshop 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. Council Chambers 110 E Third St. 360-403-3441
Airport Commission 2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Airport Office 18204 59th Dr NE 360-403-3470
Cemetery Board the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Cemetery Office 360-403-3428
Civil Service Commission 1st Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Council Library 110 E Third St. 360-403-3439
Library Board Meets quarterly at 5:30 p.m. Council Library 110 E Third St. 360-403-3441
Parks Arts & Recreation Commission 4th Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Council Chambers 110 E Third St. 360-403-3448
Planning Commission 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m Council Chambers 110 E Third St. 360-403-3435

Mayor's Office: 360-403-3441
Mayor: Barb Tolbert btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov
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Jesica Stickles jesicas@arlingtonwa.gov
Vacant
Debora Nelson deboran@arlingtonwa.gov
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Jan Schuette jans@arlingtonwa.gov

2019 A Big Year for Arlington

This past year at the City has been busy, exciting, and filled with accomplishments. We are proud to share just a few of these accomplishments in some of our key focus areas.

In economic development, the City achieved a milestone 10 years in the making with the regional designation for the long-established Cascade Industrial Center. This designation opens doors for the City to access grants for infrastructure that were not available before. We have already started to see the results of this, with new employers opening facilities, providing family wage jobs for our residents and reducing the need to travel outside of the area for work.

In public safety, we achieved a reduction in reported crimes, especially in the area of property crimes. We have seen steady use of our Law Enforcement Embedded Social Worker program, which engages the homeless and opioid addicted with services, with the goal that these individuals once again being productive members of society. In 2019, we have made 588 total contacts, obtained housing for 37 people, enrolled 41 in treatment, with 15 completing that treatment. We established a new way of handling domestic violence cases, providing more interaction and services to victims with the goal of reducing the number of cases with the same involved parties. At Arlington Fire, we focused on examining the opportunities for partnerships with our neighbors to the north at North County Regional Fire Authority. These conversations netted the sharing of three positions between the two agencies. It also allowed us to introduce a new program to help reduce the number of repeat transports to local emergency rooms: the Community Resource Paramedic program. Finally, we increased staffing in both Police and Fire Departments to maintain response times.

On the transportation front, we developed and adopted a 20-year transportation improvement plan to help smooth future congestion and provide safety to all the users. This plan was developed by overlaying where growth and development is likely to occur or occurring, targeting congestion and safety issues, and folding in our plan for Complete Streets to connect neighborhoods with different types of transportation in mind. We also spent 2019 designing key projects such as the new roundabouts at 77th Avenue NE and 204th Street NE and SR-530 and Smokey Point Blvd, which are anticipated to be constructed in 2020.

Fiscal management continued to be a focus for City Council, the City staff and Mayor. Our updated financial policies and continued growth in reserves resulted in a bond rating upgrade. The City also paid off equipment debt six years early, resulting in a savings of approximately $100,000 in interest costs. Because of the focus on fiscal sustainability, our utility rates have not increased for seven years and the City did not increase property tax rates for 2020. At the same time, our staff aggressively pursued grants for future planning, construction of streets and other infrastructure, and increased public safety staffing. In addition, for the third year in a row, the City received a clean audit.

The City also invested in our curbside appeal in 2019, with the completion of improvements to a number of City facilities. The terraces at Terrace Park received a face lift. The Splash Pad at Haller Park opened, along with new concessions in the park. We implemented a new online shelter reservation system for Haller Park and Hadley Hall to make it easier for our residents to reserve City facilities. The City updated the City-owned Merchants Parking lot with new storm drainage, pavement, and parking markings. The Community Garden was relocated to the corner of 3rd Street and French Avenue, with an expanded space for residents and our students to tend. In partnership with the Arlington Arts Council, we saw new public art installed. The City Council adopted a more consistent stream of funding for the acquisition and maintenance of public art in Arlington. Beautification projects were completed, including new lighting on the trees on Olympic Avenue and the installation of artistic bike racks that were created by Arlington High School students. Finally, our staff constructed a temporary lot to provide additional parking at the Arlington Library.

Looking Ahead to 2020

As busy as 2019 was for the City of Arlington, it is hard to imagine that 2020 could be any busier. Yet, it looks like that is going to hold true. Here's a quick look at what's ahead for plans and projects in the new year.

This year could be considered the year of transportation improvements for the City, with eight separate projects either being designed or under construction in addition to our regular pavement preservation work. These projects include construction of roundabouts on SR-530 at Smokey Point Blvd and at 204th Street NE and 77th Avenue NE; design and construction of a new traffic signal at 204th Street NE and 74th Avenue NE; design of a new traffic signal on SR-531 (172nd Street NE) at 40th Avenue NE; design of the SR-531 widening project; planning for the repaving of Smokey Point Blvd from 164th Street NE to 174th Street NE in 2021; designing the Smokey Point Blvd corridor from 174th Street NE to 200th Street NE to accommodate more than just vehicle traffic; and completing the design for 173rd Street NE to take pressure off of 172nd Street NE. The City will also be finishing the Complete Streets project on 59th Avenue NE and 188th Street NE to connect the Arlington Boys & Girls Club with adjacent parks, providing sidewalks, crosswalks and other amenities to improve safety. All of these projects are including in the City's adopted Transportation Improvement Plan, which takes a look at transportation needs for the next 20 years. This list is available on our website at www.arlingtonwa.gov/ 648/Transportation-Improvement-Plan. Many of these projects will be built thanks to significant state funding.

In economic development, work will continue on the Cascade Industrial Center (CIC) to attract family-wage manufacturing jobs in cooperation with the City of Marysville and our new partners, the Port of Everett. Transportation and utilities infrastructure in the CIC is a top priority for us and we will be working closely with Marysville to pursue funding. An important piece of growing the CIC is career-connected learning for our local residents. A new initiative with the Arlington School District has been established to connect incoming high school juniors and seniors with local businesses. More information about the Arlington Career Internships program, including how to sign up, is included in this edition of the Arlington Update. The City's Innovation Center, on the corner of 4th and Olympic, will be opening after a remodel of the building. The Innovation Center will provide co-working and incubator space for entrepreneurs of all industries and will provide access to services and education resources. Finally, we are anticipating the completion of the sustainable Downtown Corridors Plan that we have been working on in partnership with students from Western Washington University. This plan will help guide the future of downtown Arlington over the next 10-20 years.

In Police, we will be transitioning our court and jail services from the City of Marysville to Snohomish County by March 1, 2020. This move is prompted by a lack of capacity in Marysville court and jail due to the growth in population in both cities. Arlington Fire will be focused on further conversations with North County Regional Fire Authority on additional partnerships. In addition, the City will be designing and breaking ground on a new Fire Station 48 on Airport Boulevard. Both departments will be focusing on planning for anticipated future growth, similar to the work we have done on transportation.

Our focus in Community Development this year will be on development of a Housing Action Plan with our community to address needs for affordable housing. This is only a short list of the plans and programs that are anticipated to be worked on by your city staff in 2020.

All of these plans and projects require input from our local community. I encourage you to get involved and stay involved. You can find more information on the city website at www.arlingtonwa.gov.

Census 2020 Day is April 1!

The U.S. Constitution requires each person living in the United States to be counted every 10 years. By April 1, 2020, every home in America will receive an invitation by mail to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: online, by phone, or by mail. To help make sure each person in Arlington is counted, the City will have computers available at select locations to complete the census should you not have access to a computer or the internet access.

If you don't respond by early May, a Census worker will appear at your door to complete the census.

To learn more about what to expect, visit 2020census.gov.

Port of Everett, Cities of Arlington and Marysville Memorialize Historic Partnership

At a joint special meeting on January 8, 2020, legislative bodies of the Port of Everett and the Cities of Arlington and Marysville gathered to recognize their collaboration to develop the Cascade Industrial Center (CIC) and bring new economic opportunity, jobs and expanded tax base to greater Snohomish County and the region.

At the meeting, agency officials and community partners joined in a ceremonial signing of joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), memorializing the historic multi-agency partnership.

"It's an honor to bring the Port's specialized economic tools and expertise to the planning and tax relief provided by Arlington and Marysville to further benefit a project of such significance to our County's economic future," Port Commission President Glen Bachman said. "Snohomish County is one of only a few in the state that lack a county-wide port district, inadvertently putting the unique economic tools specific to ports out of reach. Our partnership bridges that gap and provides the Port and our communities to the north opportunity to discuss possible Port expansion to better serve them into the future."

The Port has been working with both Cities since 2018 and has found that a more official partnership could lend itself to greater participation and support of their local projects. Other partner agencies, including Snohomish County, Greater Seattle Partners and Economic Alliance Snohomish County, have also been major supporters, helping the CIC earn official recognition as a Regional MIC by the Puget Sound Regional Council – one of only 10 recognized state-wide.

The MIC designation provides federal, state and local infrastructure funding preference to the area. This, coupled with the major tax advantages from State-approved property tax exemptions, expedited permitting, and the federal Opportunity Zone designation, has businesses highly motivated to locate in the CIC as evidenced by significant deal making on available lands over the last year.

"We are really excited about this partnership between Marysville, Arlington, and the Port of Everett and the potential that it presents to enhance our ability to bring family wage jobs and infrastructure investments to our local communities," City of Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring said. "This is another example of the great value of working together as a team to bring prosperity to our region."

With the MOUs in place, the Port brings additional economic tools into the fold including its industrial development authority, the ability to pursue revenue bonds for economic development purposes and the potential to expand its Foreign Trade Zone #85 into the CIC.

Furthermore, the Port is now able to enhance its support for developer and business recruitment, financial analysis, grant writing, marketing, planning, and environmental regulatory strategy.

"With their deep relationships with BNSF Railways, as well as Washington State University and other institutions of higher learning, it only makes sense for Arlington and Marysville to partner with the Port of Everett," City of Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert said. "This is an incredible opportunity for the CIC's future growth and development."

By 2040, its anticipated that the CIC will generate more than 25,000 new family-wage jobs in the County, providing residents close to home quality employment opportunities. Workforce development will continue to be a key element to ensure the County maintains a skilled and ready workforce.

"The Cascade Industrial Center is one of the premier development areas in the Greater Seattle region and we have already been successful in attracting jobs and investment to this area," said Patrick Pierce, President and CEO of Economic Alliance Snohomish County. "Formalizing the partnership between the Port of Everett and the cities of Arlington and Marysville will only further enhance this important regional job center. Growing quality jobs near where people live only helps us to improve communities, reduce commute times and increase quality of life – that's the value of economic development."

Information on the CIC is available at www.arlingtonwa.gov/575/Cascade-Industrial-Center.

We Need You! Volunteer for a City Board or Commission

Interested in giving back to your community? Have a few hours a month to give? Consider volunteering on one of the City's Boards and Commissions!

The City is currently seeking to fill a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission.

Applications to serve on a board or commission are accepted continually. For more information on our boards and commissions or to apply, please visit our webpage at http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/424/Boards-Commissions.

City & Arlington Public Schools Announce Arlington Career Internships Program

Arlington Public Schools and the City of Arlington are proud to announce they are launching a summer internship program for local junior and senior high school students. All Arlington businesses are invited to collaborate with the City and the School District in the development of our workforce through the Arlington Career Internships (ACI) program.

With the job market experiencing a scarcity of qualified employees, it only makes sense for businesses to invest in quality high school career programs. Stated Mayor Barb Tolbert, "One of the top items I hear from our local employers is the need for a qualified, ready-to-work workforce. The Arlington Career Internships program will help bridge this gap and provide our local students with career-connected learning."

Businesses participating in the internship program will benefit from exposing high school students to real world work experiences,and familiarizing them with their workplace, which can lower training time, recruiting costs, and turnover rates.

Local juniors and seniors that complete the ACI program will work 90 hours over the summer and receive 0.5 credits.

"Students will have the opportunity to connect with local employers to build career-specific skills, gain work experience, and clarify their future career direction," said Superintendent Dr. Chrys Sweeting.

In this first year, ACI seeks to partner 20 local businesses with 30 students. To participate in ACI, businesses and students should contact Lyndall Mullin at aci@asd.wednet.edu.

Council Cancels Utilities Rate Increase for Eighth Consecutive Year

Customers of Arlington's water, sewer, and stormwater utilities will see no increase in their utility bill in 2020. At the Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Council meeting, the Arlington City Council voted unanimously to cancel a planned 2020 rate increase for water, sewer and stormwater utilities, the eighth year in a row they have taken such action.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the City Council's 2020 rescinding of utility rates increases for the eighth consecutive year a win for Arlington residents and businesses, stating "our City Council and staff have worked hard to hold the line on costs for the past eight years."

Since 2010, the city ordinance has required a mandatory public utilities rate increase each year for Arlington residents and commercial customers. However, this is the eighth year in a row that the council's vote made an exception, maintaining the water, sewer, and stormwater rates unchanged since 2012.

Community Outreach Team Update

The City's Community Outreach Team, comprised of Arlington Police Officer Ken Thomas and Snohomish County Social Worker Britney Sutton, continues to make significant strides in addressing the opioid epidemic in our community. In 2019, Arlington's team made 910 contacts in our community. 64 clients completed substance abuse assessments, 39 clients secured housing, and 17 completed substance abuse treatment.

One of our key outreach partners is the Arlington Community Resource Center (ACRC). In 2019, the staff at ACRC served 7,571 participants and fielded over 2,000 phone calls for assistance. On the housing front, ACRC was able to help 77 families obtain stable housing and another 60 families stay in their current housing arrangement.

Support the Community Outreach Team with Your Donations

The City's Community Outreach Team has access to a small fund to provide for the immediate basic needs to individuals that are ready to take the step to stop the addiction to opiates and other drugs. The fund is used to fill the gap of time between the time the individual makes the decision to stop the addiction and when the individual can be connected to services. You can donate to the City's Social Services Flex Fund to help bridge the gap during this short amount of time. Donations are tax deductible. Visit our website at www.arlingtonwa.gov/552/Donate.

City of Arlington The Update

January 2020

238 N Olympic · Arlington · WA · 98223
arlingtonwa.gov

City Phone Numbers

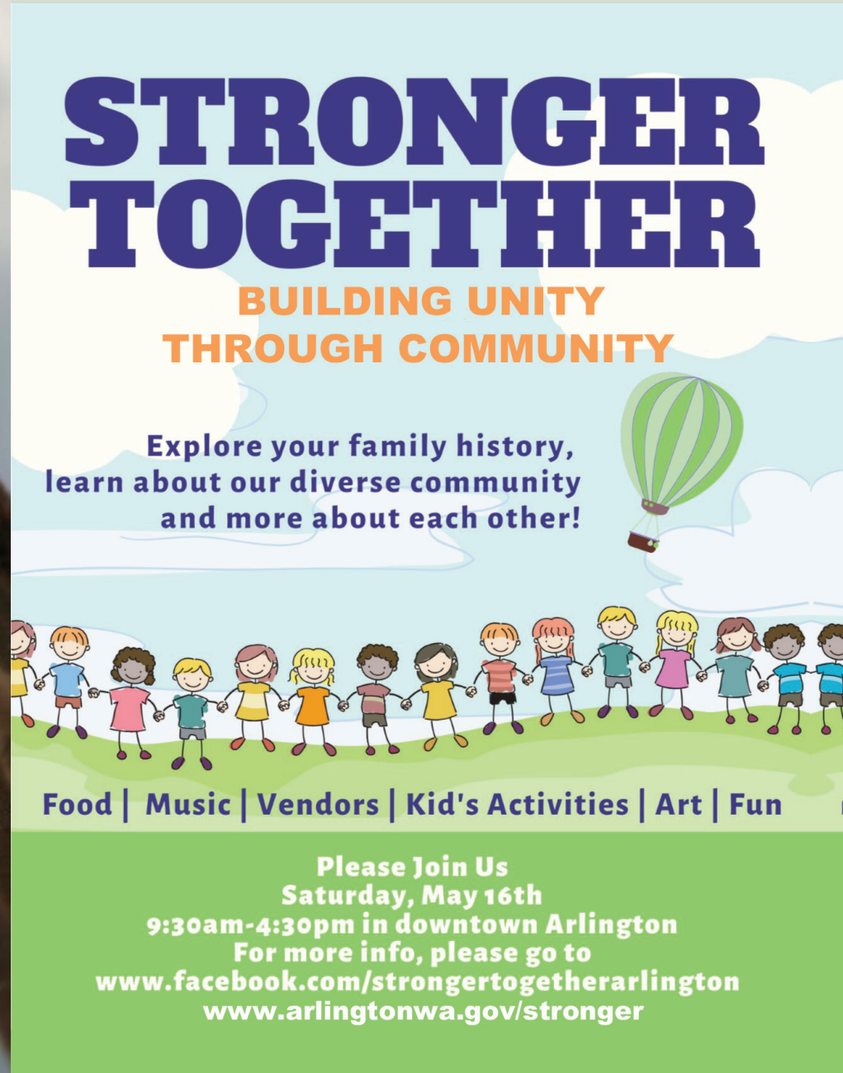
Airport	360-403-3470
Cemetery	360-403-3428
Community & Economic Dev.	360-403-3551
Finance Department	360-403-3421
Fire Business Line	360-403-3600
Human Resources	360-403-3443
Mayor's Office	360-403-3441
Police Business Line	360-403-3400
Public Works Utilities	360-403-3526
Recreation	360-403-3448
Street & Park Maintenance	360-403-3451
Utility Billing	360-403-3421

Want more news?

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletters delivered to your email inbox.
Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter
Visit our website to sign up for meeting notifications.
Questions? Email administration@arlingtonwa.gov. 360-403-3441

City Purchases New Equipment to Fix Lifting Sidewalks

The City of Arlington recently purchased new equipment to fix buckling or "tenting" sidewalks due to tree roots. Called "The Big Sidewalk Sucker", the machine uses an engine powered suction system that can lift sidewalk panels off the ground. That allows crews to prune the roots of trees causing lifting, level the ground, and re-use the same panels, instead of demolishing the sidewalks and starting over. This approach is expected to save substantial amounts of money and time, and preserve many trees that might have otherwise been removed using more traditional methods.

The City is in the process of completing an evaluation of sidewalks in town and will develop a schedule to repair sidewalks that are lifting with this new technology.

If you have more questions about the Sidewalk Sucker, please contact Maintenance & Operations at 360-403-3451.