

The Update



May 2021

Message from Mayor Barb

Thank you for reading the City's newsletter. We make a concentrated effort to communicate to our citizens on topics that affect you. This printed newsletter highlights the recent topics. For more information, we have weekly e-newsletters that are delivered by email, and we are also on social media, Facebook and Twitter. You can also sign up for alerts on our website. City Council and Planning Commission meetings are available to watch on YouTube and citizens can provide public comment at the meetings through the Zoom platform. We are available to answer questions or take comments by email or phone.

I hope that you are enjoying spring as we look forward to a busy summer season. We have hired our seasonal maintenance workers and have plans to make upgrades to our parks and facilities. Arlington has entered a busy construction season. You can follow the public works and private development projects on our website.

I want to encourage you to get vaccinated to help us move forward in the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery plan. The sooner we move forward, the sooner we will be able to open up our larger events and community gatherings, and we can't wait to see you all.

Barbara Tolbert

City of Arlington's Ban on Fireworks

This is the first year City of Arlington residents will not be allowed to use consumer fireworks on July 4th.

The fireworks ban prohibits the use, discharge, sale or trade of any fireworks within city limits. People who violate the ban will face a \$103 fine. Fireworks may also be confiscated by the Arlington Police, who will be conducting extra patrols on and around July 4. This ban does not include the City permitted public display.

City residents may report the use of fireworks using the non-emergency phone line at 425-407-3999. Please avoid calling 911 unless there is an emergency. We are encouraging citizens to use the non-emergency line to report violations, and be patient as Arlington Police are dispatched to respond.

The ban on fireworks is not a new topic for Arlington and the community. Fireworks are banned in more than half the cities in Snohomish County.

Residents are clearly on both sides of the issue. However, safety is the ultimate reason City Council adopted the ban. The State Fire Marshal reported 360 fireworks related fires and 237 fireworks related injuries in 2020.

The City is planning a public professional firework display for the evening of July 4th. "We appreciate our residents who watch the public display," said Mayor Tolbert.

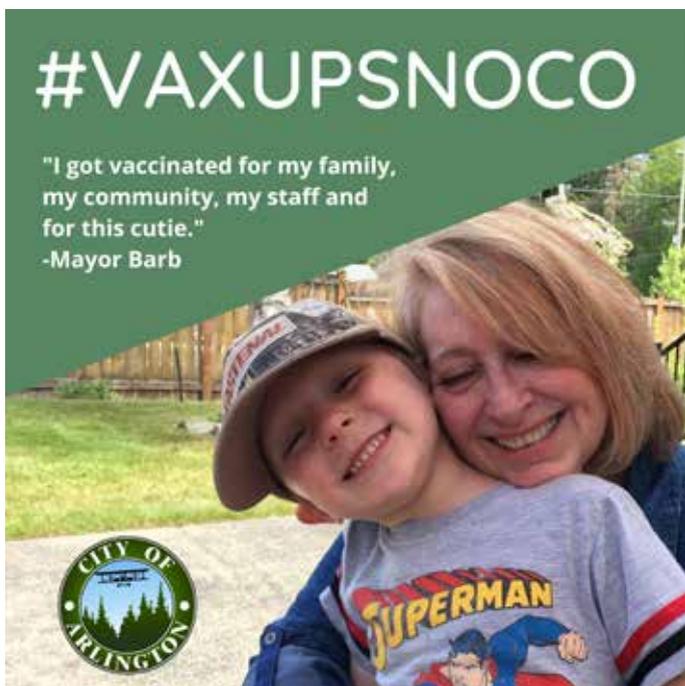
We hope that the positive results will show zero injury and firework fire related calls to the Arlington Fire Department over the 4th of July holiday. "We have seen too many instances where fireworks quickly turned into emergency situations," said Fire Chief Kraski.

**ALL FIREWORKS
ARE ILLEGAL IN ARLINGTON
CELEBRATE SAFELY**

#VAXUPSNOCO

"I got vaccinated for my family,
my community, my staff and
for this cutie."

-Mayor Barb



SMOKEY POINT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS: NEAR TERM FIXES AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Amazon Announces Distribution Center

Since the news arrived that Amazon will construct a building at 4620 172nd Street NE, the City of Arlington has received numerous questions about traffic flow in Smokey Point. Most commenters expressed concern that 1,000 employees arriving to work at Amazon would snarl traffic for hours along 172nd Street NE.

The City's vision for Smokey Point traffic is to create a throughway for vehicles on 172nd St NE, from Interstate-5 to Highway 9. To achieve that goal, there are several traffic improvements planned over the next few years. When all construction is completed, there will be lights only at the Interstate 5 ramps (existing), Smokey Point Blvd., (existing) and 40th St NE (new). All other intersections along 172nd St NE will be roundabouts, leading to the existing roundabout at Highway 9. Specifically, the lights at 43rd, 51st, 59th and 67th will all be replaced with roundabouts, which keep traffic flowing and improve safety. Per Washington State Department of Transportation, in 2019, 26,000 vehicles per day used 172nd between 43rd and 67th, compared to 18,000 vehicles daily in 1999. This stretch of road averages three serious crashes annually, so safety improvements are paramount. The new road will be multi-modal, meaning it accommodates all kinds of traffic: vehicles, freight, transit buses, bicycles and pedestrians.

The City will also be collaborating on creating new east-west routes through Smokey Point, for those travelers who need local access to neighborhoods and businesses. These projects are detailed in the table and map below.

Street	runs between	improvement	completed in
Smokey Point Blvd	164th & 174th Place	repaving	2021
173rd St NE	Smokey Point Blvd & 40th Ave NE	construct two lane street	2021
40th Ave NE	at 172nd St NE	new light	2022
43rd Ave NE	at 172nd St NE	remove light, add roundabout, improve 43rd from 169th to 172nd	2022
169th St NE/168th St NE	38th Ave NE & 43rd Ave NE	construct/continue two lane street	2023
169th St NE/168th St NE	43rd Ave NE & 51st Ave NE	construct/continue two lane street	2022
172nd St NE	43rd Ave NE & 67th Ave NE	add two lanes, median, trail, sidewalk	2025



Details on improvements to be completed soon:

Smokey Point Blvd: repaving, from 164th Pl NE to 174th Pl NE. Project includes replacing non-compliant ADA ramps.

173rd St. NE, Phase 1: from Smokey Point Blvd to 40th Ave NE, will be open by fall of 2021. Eventually, this street will connect to 51st Ave, allowing easy access to Smokey Point residential neighborhoods without using 172nd St. NE.

40th Ave NE at 172nd St NE: New traffic light at intersection. Street improvements include a solid landscaped median to prevent left hand turns (U-turns will be allowed), pedestrian crosswalks, and bus pull-outs for future transit use.

43rd Ave NE at 172nd St. NE: New roundabout at intersection. Funded by Amazon.

Improvements to be completed in the next few years:

172nd St from 43rd Ave NE to 67th Ave NE: Washington State Department of Transportation project, and will be under construction likely starting in 2023, and probably ending in 2025. The State will widen 172nd St from two lanes to four, with a wide median and a multi-use trail on both sides (sidewalk and bike path).

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic caused delays in this project's schedule, but Washington State Department of Transportation is getting this project back on track, and intends to begin community engagement later this year. Businesses, commuters and the public will have opportunities to see the concepts of the project and offer feedback.

That question about 1,000 employees blocking traffic: Amazon employees will not all arrive at the same time. Not all of them will use the 172nd St NE entrance; there will also be entrances on 43rd Ave NE and 51st Ave NE. The workforce will have multiple overlapping shifts, so that workers are not trying to arrive at the same time that workers getting off shift are trying to leave.

169th Street NE: currently completed to about 38th Ave. The City is responsible for completing from that point to 43rd Ave, and must deal with the water/creek there. Amazon is providing the continuation of the street, which changes names from 169th to 168th at 43rd Ave due to southern bend in the street. The new 168th St should not be confused with the existing 168th St NE, which runs past the post office and into a neighborhood. No construction is planned for the existing 168th St.

Another frequently asked question is "Why don't they get the infrastructure done before all this building happens?" The answer has two parts:

1. Under concurrency laws, the City cannot legally condition development upon infrastructure completion if it can be proved the necessary improvements are planned and funded within six years of the project completion.
2. Access to funding for transportation projects is extremely competitive. The City has a team that constantly searches for funding, but even once funding is granted, projects tend to start two to three years later.

As the map details, 172nd St NE will become a throughway, moving traffic to and from Interstate 5 and Highway 9. New east-west routes at 173rd St NE and 168th St NE will provide local access to Smokey Point. Connector streets running north-south will give drivers multiple options for accessing any of the east-west routes. This plan allows for safer traffic flow while creating a grid in Smokey Point for easy access. Waiting is hard, and so are traffic jams. Please be patient as we create a better flow through Smokey Point.

City of Arlington Summer 2021

Utility and Pavement Preservation Projects

Utility Improvements

N. Macleod Avenue from E. 4th Street to E. Division Street

French Avenue from E. Highland Drive to E. Division Street

N. High Street from E. 5th Street to E. Division Street

Paving Improvements

N. Dunham Avenue from E. 5th Street to E. Division Street

N. High Street from E. 5th Street to E. Division Street

E. 4th Street from N. Macleod Avenue to N. French Avenue

E. 3rd Street from N. Dunham Avenue to N. French Avenue

E. 2nd Street from N. Dunham Avenue to N. Lenore Avenue

Park Hill Drive

Smokey Point Blvd. Pavement Project 174th Place Ave NE to 164th Place Ave NE

RESOURCES:

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS
arlingtonwa.gov/pwprojects

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
arlingtonwa.gov/activitymap

HOW A ROAD GETS BUILT
arlingtonwa.gov/buildroad

HOW GROWTH HAPPENS
arlingtonwa.gov/growthinfo



A Year in Review

In February, we recorded a State of the City address with Mayor Barb Tolbert interviewed by Youth Councilmember Jenna Estep. This recording is available on the City's YouTube Channel. Here are some of the highlights of the year.

<https://vimeo.com/522470331>

What we have heard from local businesses

Businesses definitely have struggled. Those most impacted are restaurants/bars and manufacturers.

Businesses that have adapted and pivoted as needed to the conditions of the pandemic are stable.

Those businesses that embraced programs like PPP and have been assisted by the Chamber and the City were very pleased with the service that they received.

The community is resilient. There is great pride in Arlington.

2019 to 2020 overall sales tax revenues increased 8%. The two sectors driving this increase are retail and construction. Manufacturing decreased 21%.

New businesses: January 2020 to 2021 issued 96 city licenses and 189 out of city licenses.

Assistance to the businesses with CARES funding

Rent Relief grants \$349,360 total; 109 businesses.

Adopted a utility payment grant and no utility increase, with \$5600 to businesses.

Established Economic Recovery committee.

WSU assistance and SV Chamber of Commerce partnerships.

Shop Local Arlington online marketplace was established.

Restaurant support- outdoor dining areas, website and brochures.

Communicated programs and assistance to businesses

Assistance in the community during the pandemic

Strengthened community organizations to support families with CARES funding.

Food bank received \$25,000 grant, 86% increased in demand July 1, 2020-January 2021. Served 16,328 individuals, 5,941 households Client demographics went from poverty to medium income. 125 volunteers.

Arlington Community Resource Center, \$150,000 grant. 3,393 client contacts. Total Arlington (98223) households served 498. Supported with rent, mortgage, emergency shelter, utilities support, and other needs like childcare, transportation, internet.

City Utility credits for 96 households

B&G Club \$40,000 grant to support increased capacity for child care, from 90 to 200 youth.

Established Snohomish County Job Portal.

Installed five free Wifi access points.

Grants to organizations assisting students with studies.

Meeting the Housing Demand

Growth is not optional. WA Growth Management Act requires local governments to manage Washington's growth by identifying and protecting critical areas, designating urban growth areas, and preparing comprehensive plans.

We need to have options for places for people to live, and the best scenario is to be able to live/work/play in a thriving community, to address missing middle housing-created the Housing Action Plan.

Police Data in 2020 during COVID

Overall Incidents were down 11%

911 Calls were up 7%

Overall property crime up 3% (fraud, vandalism, burglary are down, but vehicle theft, shoplifting are up)

Overall crimes against persons down 7%

Community Outreach Team for Homeless/Embedded Social Worker Program 2020 Data

281 transports

463 contacts

254 camp/car/park/business checks

280 client coordination (phone/email)

67 enforcement/warnings

27 housed

32 treatment began

73 new clients

Read Annual Police Report here: arlingtonwa.gov/PDreports

Building permits Jan. 1, 2020 to Feb. 17, 2021

Mixed Use Building (commercial and residential) – 8

Aircraft Hangar – 3

Manufacturing/Industrial/Warehouse – 6

Other Commercial – 5

Commercial Tenant Improvements – 23

Fire Station – 1

Single Family Homes – 17 and Multi-Family Units– 5



2020 Police Awards

Congratulations to the award recipients

To see the narrative, please go to arlingtonwa.gov/PDAwards

Traffic Enforcement: Officer Josh Fox

Police Volunteer of the Year: A. Larry Carter

Chief's Service Award: Bryan Terry, IT Director

Commendation Award: Officer Mike McQuoid

Community Engagement: Detective Stephanie Ambrose

DUI Enforcement: Officer Josh Fox

Life Saving Award: Officer Alex Donchez

Life Saving Award: Sgt. Peter Barrett

Life Saving Award: Officer Kendahl Metcalfe

Employee of the Year: Officer Dustin Bartlett



Volunteers from Rotary and Boy Scouts plant trees at Stormwater Wetland Park



*Tree Board Arbor Day
Tree planting at Quake Park*

Arlington Fire to North County Fire Authority Annexation Approved

Voters gave us an 89.33% approval in the February election to move forward with annexing Arlington Fire Department into North County Regional Fire Authority. Transition work is being completed to meet the effective date of August 1, 2021.

Mayor Barbara Tolbert, Councilmember Marilyn Oertle, and Councilmember Debora Nelson will serve two-year terms on the North County Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Board of Commissioners. The terms for those three new positions begin on the annexation effective date of August 1, 2021, and run through December 31, 2023. In November 2023, six RFA board seats will be up for election, including three at large positions, for which anyone living in the RFA service area may run, and two districted positions covering different parts of Arlington. Anyone living within a district may run for a districted seat.

Arlington will discontinue its Ambulance Utility Fee on utility bills effective August 1, 2021. Starting in 2022, City of Arlington property owners will see levies for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) on their property tax statements. Current North County RFA property owners will not see fire and EMS levy changes from annexation on their property tax statements.

RFA Chief John Cermak reflected on the long partnership between North County RFA and Arlington Fire Department. He said, "We know Arlington well, and are honored to serve the community. The RFA provides more emergency resources for residents in the existing areas and in Arlington."

Arlington Fire Chief Dave Kraski agreed, noting "Annexation will improve personnel deployment and improve training opportunities for all staff."

Arlington Youth Council Create Youth Resource Guide

The City's Youth Council was created to advise the City on issues related to and affecting the youth in our community and provide youth perspectives on a range of community issues and topics.

This year the Youth Council met virtually. They began the year by being introduced to agencies that serve youth in need. They quickly realized that a Youth Resource Guide was needed to help teens find access to the many agencies ready to assist with needs, including food, clothing, shelter, housing, crisis intervention, crisis hotlines, counseling and more.

View/download flyer here:

www.arlingtonwa.gov/youth

Addressing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The City recognizes that the nation is in a journey working towards equity and inclusion and battling discrimination and racism.

Over the past two years, the City has partnered with Will Nelson, Director of Equity and Student Success at the Arlington School District, and community partners to put on Stronger Together, Building Unity Through Community, events and programs. Information on programs and events can be found at arlingtonwa.gov/stronger. We welcome community members to be part of the planning team.

Internally, the City requires all newly hired full-time staff to attend mandatory Diversity in the Workplace and Anti-Harassment Training. In 2020 and continuing through 2021, we offered all staff the opportunity to attend multi-day Implicit Bias Training. The City has also sponsored many staff over the last several years to attend Leadership Snohomish County, which includes specific training on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Specific to our police department, in May 2017, Initiative 940 (1-940) was filed with the legislature to establish higher training requirements and police accountability standards. Following the passage of 1-940 and SHB 1064, the legislation was renamed the Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETCSA). The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC), created rules for new officer training requirements (WAC 139-11), which include: The Historical Intersection of Race and Policing, Alternatives to Booking, Implicit and Explicit Bias, and Understanding Local Cultures. In addition to the mandated training listed above for all new and existing law enforcement officers in Washington State, School Resource Officers complete additional training specific to children.

We continue to build on our diversity, equity and inclusion programming for both staff and the community over time and are looking to continue and strengthen our partnerships with the Arlington School District, Stilly Valley Health Connections, Cascade Valley Hospital and Sno-Isle Libraries System, as much as possible, in these areas as we move forward to jointly provide timely and effective resources and training to our staff and the community.

City Council Spring Retreat

City Council, the Mayor, City Administrator and Directors met on April 10th, following social distancing guidelines, for the annual spring budget retreat.

The modified City budget was presented by Finance Director Kristin Garcia. The modifications take into account the transfer of the Arlington Fire Department to North County Fire Authority, an increase in jail costs, and re-instating two unfilled employee positions. A sales tax overview showed a 70 percent increase from 2015 numbers, with construction and retail accounting for the increase.

The American Rescue Plan is expected to distribute between \$3.7 to \$4.4 million to the City in coming months. Guidelines for qualifying expenses were discussed. The City is working on plans for impactful use of the funds.

City staff presented the need for a comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan and an Airport Development Plan. The City will seek professional consultants to help with the complex effort required for both plans. The Airport Development Plan will identify areas to ensure the highest and best use for the properties. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is due for an update. We will be seeking public input on the Park and Recreation Master Plan update, so stay tuned!

Arlington Airport Hosts Vaccination Site

The Arlington Airport is proud to be hosting one of the state's largest mass vaccination sites. Arlington is one of six sites set up by the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce with support from the City of Arlington. Arlington Fire and North County Fire were important partners in the planning and execution effort.

"Arlington is one of the busiest sites. 49,500 vaccines were administered by March 22, 2021," said Jason Biermann, Snohomish County DEM Director. Mayor Tolbert added, "The site is remarkably efficient. We are very grateful for the kindness and graciousness of the volunteers, who worked in all weather to help our community."

People are reporting that the drive through vaccine experience is positive. "The drive-through method was extremely efficient. The steady stream of cars divided into three lines and we had the shots in our arms within 15 minutes of our arrival at the site. Every check point was well orchestrated. Instructions these people had probably already given hundreds of times that day were given clearly and calmly. We never felt rushed or hurried along. Our questions were answered with patience and respect. The people who administered the shot were pleasant and smiling under their masks," said Teresa Oppie.

Vaccinations at the site are by appointment and are dependent of vaccine supply. For more information go to <https://www.snohd.org/564/COVID-Vaccine-Info>

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Jessica Stickles



Don Vanney



Debora Nelson



Michele Blythe



Marilyn Oertle



Mike Hopson



Jan Schuette

February

- Approved interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for jail services
- Approved professional services agreement for prosecutorial services
- Renewed interlocal agreement to participate in Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force
- Update from Congressman Rick Larsen
- Dedication of right of ways
- Interlocal agreement with Fire District #21 for fire protection services
- Approved 10% petition phase for Lindsey Annexation
- Proposed revisions to Arlington Municipal Code Title 5 regarding business licenses and approved contract with State Dept. of Revenue for business licensing services
- Financial Report
- Community and Economic Development Report

March

- Retired Police K-9 Tara
- Re-appointed Maxine Jenft to the Cemetery Board
- Contracted with HWA Geoservices for stormwater infiltration data at Island Crossing
- Approved purchase of right of way for the 204th 77th roundabout project
- Accepted dedication of right of way property
- Approved development agreement for Panattoni Development Co. for "Project Roxy"
- Accepted Snohomish County interlocal agreement for funding improvements at Evans Park
- Re-appointed Mike Thomas to the Planning Commission
- Approved replacement vehicle for Community and Economic Development Dept.
- Presentation of Airport Vaccination Site, from Jason Biermann, Snohomish County DEM
- Joint meeting: Arlington Public Schools, Skagit Regional Health, Stilly Valley Health Connections, City of Arlington

April

- Proclaimed Arbor Day
- Approved purchase of an IT network assessment from Right Systems
- Approved city to contract with GC Systems for maintenance of Cla-Val products in the water distribution system
- Approved the WRIA 7 Watershed and Enhancement Plan
- Adopted Arlington Housing Action Plan
- Authorized applying for Federal funding for transportation and park projects
- Appointed 3 officials to Regional Fire Authority Transition Board
- Re-appointed Jennifer Harrington to the Park, Arts and Recreation Commission
- Presentation- Dawson Place, Child Abuse Prevention Month by Fran Gatica
- Approved change of ownership of the Astound Broadband franchise
- Surplused 2 City vehicles
- Approved agreement with Dowl Engineering and FAA grant for design services for Airport projects
- Approved ordinance adding Community Engagement Director to Municipal Code and confirmed appointment
- Modified the salary schedule for non-represented employees

City Council Meetings

Workshops: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

The City is conducting meetings virtually with Zoom and live streamed on the City's YouTube Channel

[YouTube.com/cityofarlingtonwashington](https://www.youtube.com/cityofarlingtonwashington)

For current information, go to

www.arlingtonwa.gov calendar or agenda center.

Boards and Commissions

Airport Commission: 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Cemetery Board: 3rd Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

Civil Service Commission: 1st Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Park, Arts, Rec. Commission: 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Planning Commission: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Youth Council: 2nd Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

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
Parks & Recreation	360-403-3448
Public Works Utilities	360-403-3526
Street & Park Maintenance	360-403-3451
Utility Billing	360-403-3421



City of Arlington
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 Arlington, WA 98223

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The City and community groups are working hard to bring you opportunities to celebrate and gather safely. Follow arlingtonwa.gov/events



**ARLINGTON'S JULY 4TH
 FIREWORKS
 DISPLAY**

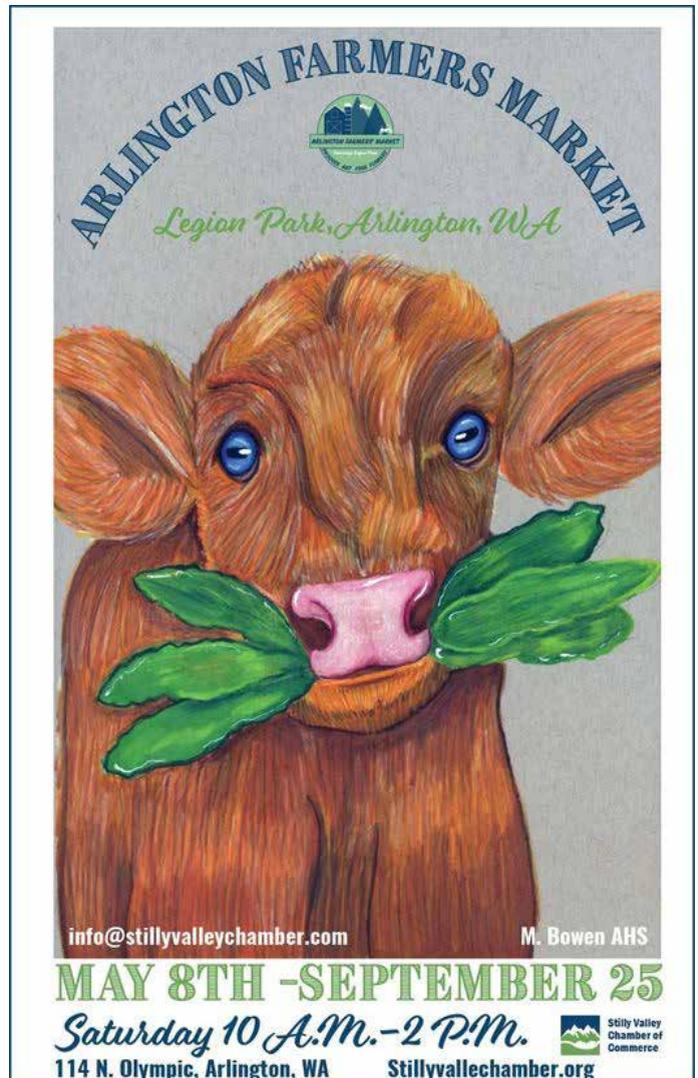
Located at Quake Park, for Details on Parking
arlingtonwa.gov/events



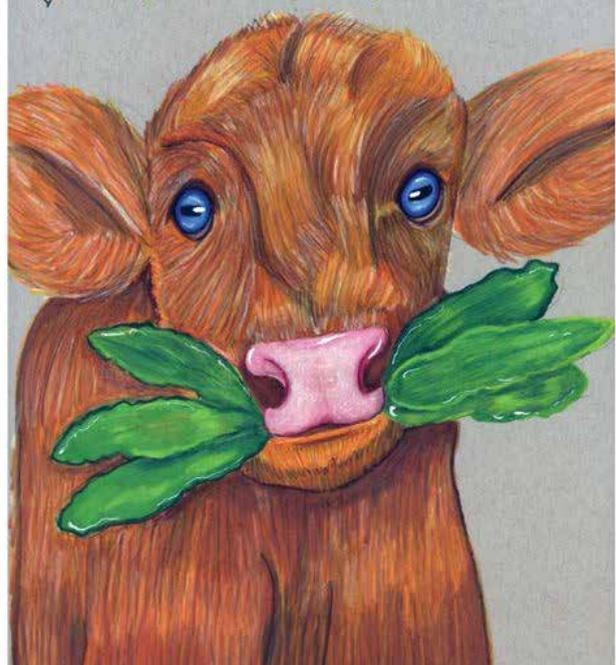
STRONGER
together

Building Unity Through Community

On your own cultural tour of the
 Stillaguamish Valley
 and other activities
arlingtonwa.gov/stronger



ARLINGTON FARMERS MARKET
 Legion Park, Arlington, WA



info@stillyvalleychamber.com M. Bowen AHS

MAY 8TH - SEPTEMBER 25
 Saturday 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
 114 N. Olympic, Arlington, WA Stillyvallechamber.org

Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce