



THE UPDATE

January 2017

Council Highlights

Elected officials have been working on the following:

October

- Proclaimed Fire Prevention Week Oct. 10-16
- Adopted the 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan
- Appointed Arlington's first Youth Council
- Amended Municipal Code regarding Impact Fee Deferral in accordance with state law
- Contracted for Quake Park baseball field renovation
- Amended Municipal Code regarding Council meetings
- Swore in Firefighter/Paramedic Nichika Sacha
- Proclaimed National Hospice and Palliative Care Month (Nov)
- Proclaimed Friends of the Library Week (Oct 16-22)

November

- Contracted to complete the environmental review on the Airport Business Park
- Adopted general property tax levy, EMS property tax levy
- Adopted 2017-2018 budget
- Declared some holiday decorations as surplus
- Accepted United Way Health and Human Services Grant and contracted with Julie Frauenholtz for professional services
- Updated right of way acquisition procedure
- Rejected all bids for Haller Park restroom facility
- Authorized purchase of CXT restroom building for Haller Park

December

- Signed Local Agency Agreement with WSDOT to oversee federal transportation grant for 67th Ave NE repaving
- Approved surplus of utility vehicle that reached end of its useful life
- Approved collective bargaining agreement with IAFF Local 3728
- Adopted ordinance for mixed use overlay and zoning map
- Adopted the 2017-2019 Commute Trip Reduction Plan
- Presented award to Mike Britt, outgoing DABA president
- Accepted grant from Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation for laryngoscopes
- Accepted grant from Hope Unlimited for backfill cost for firefighter attending medic school
- Accepted Stillaguamish Tribe Community Grant for traffic video unit

Special Message from Arlington and Darrington Mayors

Beyond ABC: Stilly Valley Spirit

When the Oso landslide devastated so much in the Stillaguamish Valley, we pulled together in disaster response and recovery from one of the worst natural disasters in Puget Sound. Under the banner of Oso Strong, we showed ourselves and the world that we are resilient and resourceful. Our greater community pitched in with recovery work, and our regional partners joined our communities to develop the Stillaguamish Valley Economic Redevelopment Plan, which identified steps to improve infrastructure and economic vitality. Frontier Communications invited us to the America's Best Communities (ABC) competition, where we are one of eight national finalists. Our ABC initiatives were built on the foundation of the Stillaguamish Valley Economic Redevelopment Plan.

People frequently ask us "What are you going to do with the prize money?" We will continue to work collaboratively toward the goals outlined in the Stillaguamish Valley Economic Redevelopment Plan and invest in the strategies that will bring economic growth while embracing our quality of life. We created this plan and vision for the health of the entire valley and have found success and strength in our shared work. Money from the final round of the competition, which we hope to win, will allow us to continue this work. We will not be splitting the money between the communities; rather, we will continue to work together under the new banner called Stilly Valley Spirit, which embodies our togetherness and pride in our community.



Total investments in our valley since the landslide total \$88 million (including grants, private investments, and infrastructure support) and highlight how our shared work is moving the Stilly Valley plan forward. Those projects include new roads and street improvements, park and trail upgrades, water line improvements, education opportunities, tourism grants, beautification of downtown corridors, street light upgrades and many more. Some of the projects are not yet complete, including the widening of 172nd Avenue in Arlington, which will wrap up in 2020, at a cost of \$39,500,000.

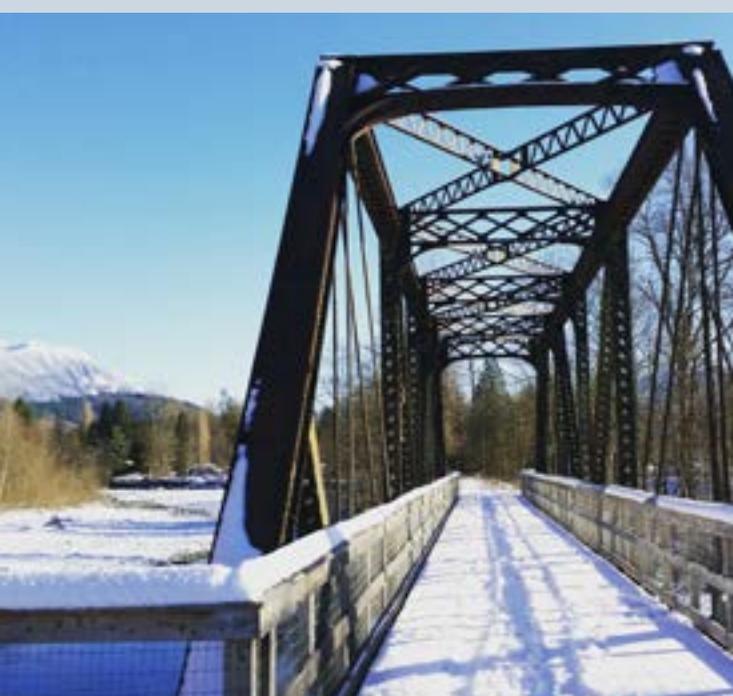
There is more to do, and that's detailed in the Stillaguamish Valley Economic Redevelopment Plan. Together, with Stilly Valley Spirit, we will continue building our strong partnership for a better future.

Thank you,

Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert

and

Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin



City Meetings

Check our website calendar for the latest information

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

Mayor's Office: 360-403-3441

Mayor: Barb Tolbert btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov

City Council Members:

- Jesica Stickles jesicas@arlingtonwa.gov
- Chris Raezer chrisr@arlingtonwa.gov
- Debora Nelson deboran@arlingtonwa.gov
- Sue Weiss suew@arlingtonwa.gov
- Marilyn Oertle marilyno@arlingtonwa.gov
- Mike Hopson mikeh@arlingtonwa.gov
- Jan Schuette jans@arlingtonwa.gov

2016 Grant Report

In 2016, the City of Arlington garnered \$6,132,441 in grants, bringing the total amount of grants awarded to the City since 2012 to over \$65.2 million. In the last two years, the City has received over \$41.2 million in grants and investments that are directly related to the implementation of the North Stillaguamish Valley Economic Recovery plan and the City's involvement in the America's Best Communities competition with the town of Darrington. Our combined efforts as part of the ABC competition have translated into leveraging over \$88 million to improve the social and economic outlook of the North Stillaguamish Valley.

Public Works

In 2015, the Washington State Legislature approved \$39.5 million for the 172nd Street NE widening project. Construction is slated to begin in 2019; final design of the project is currently underway. In addition, the State of Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) granted \$2.36 million and Federal Highway Administration funded \$791,900 for the Arlington Valley Road, a proposed road between 204th St NE and 67th Ave. The TIB's Relight Washington Program funded another \$79,000 for City streetlights' conversions to LED. The Stillaguamish Tribe has recently funded \$6,685 for a traffic camera monitoring system to aid us in evaluating roadways for future improvements.

Grant applications in the total of \$1.75 million have been submitted to Washington State Department of Transportation Safe Route to School and pedestrian and bicycle programs for flashing beacons, and sidewalk and trail improvements.

Recreation

Snohomish County and City of Arlington Tourism Lodging Tax Grants funded wayfinding signs for Byrnes Performing Arts Center. The Snohomish County Tourism grant program also funded part of a sound system for downtown. The Snohomish County Heritage Program funded historical interpretive signs and mile markers for the Centennial Trail. Snohomish County's Small Capital Project Partnership funded the Terrace Park playground curbing improvement project. Arlington Tourism Lodging Tax grants paid for a number of the 2016 events, including the Eagle Festival and summer outdoor entertainment series. The Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation dedicated \$4,000 to the Ride to Remember Oso March 2017 event, and Red Cross is providing an additional \$10,000 towards the event.

Improvements at Quake Park ballfields and the Arlington Boys & Girls Club are being funded from the State Capital fund at \$1.5 million, Snohomish County at \$350,000, and the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) at \$250,000.

The City applied for a RCO grant for \$500,000 (pending) to match the \$500,000 the Stillaguamish Tribe has dedicated to the Haller Park Splash Pad project. An additional \$160,000 has been raised by the Rotary Club of Arlington for the Splash Pad through their annual Duck Dash raffle and donations.

Police

The Police Department received \$9,775 from Washington State Patrol for a new machine for fingerprinting. This will allow us to move into the 21st century and submit fingerprints directly to the state and FBI. They also received donations of \$10,000 to the K9 program and \$1,639 for the graffiti removal program from the community. The Stillaguamish Tribe donated \$43,000 towards a vehicle and the Department of Justice granted \$250,000 towards staffing. Arlington Police just received \$9,786 from Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation for six automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for the patrol cars.

Fire

Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation funded \$38,000 towards staffing a position while a firefighter is in paramedic school and \$28,430 for two video laryngoscopes. The Stillaguamish Tribe gave \$1,600 for a new Sparky the Fire Dog costume to help us teach our youth about fire safety. There are two FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) assistant firefighter grants applications that are pending.

Airport

Taxiway lighting design is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for \$118,800 and WSDOT-Aviation for \$6,460.

Like all cities throughout the nation, Arlington and Darrington rely on grant funds to improve essential infrastructure and services to our citizens. Without these grants, it is safe to say our implementation of the North Stillaguamish Valley Economic Recovery plan would not be as far along as it is today. Although we have a long journey to reach full implementation of the plan, we are well on our way to improving our great Stillaguamish Valley.

Planning for a Makerspace, Top of the Innovation Funnel

One of our strategies for the America's Best Communities competition, and to advance economic revitalization through industries and employment, is to create a plan for a fabrication lab, otherwise known as a makerspace. Makerspaces are places where people can create, invent, and learn. They are collective organizations designed to increase access to specialized tools within a collaborative community. The members of a makerspace form a community, sharing not only space and tools, but also knowledge. Members may work on projects collaboratively or alone, but are generally willing to teach each other skills or machine operations with which they have experience.

A group of individuals has been working on a makerspace concept that would best fit in our area and be a pathway to create family wage jobs for local people. Diane Kamionka of Northwest Innovation Resource Center has led the research, with Kendra Trachta and Jonalyn Woolf-Ivory (Sno-Isle Libraries), Emily Grossman (Department of Commerce), and John Bonner (Everett Community College). Together with Arlington and Darrington mayors and Leadership Snohomish County, they have built a makerspace plan that fits with our local manufacturing economy.

The Arlington Makerspace will be a collaboration which provides existing businesses, aspiring startup businesses and workforce to leverage their creativity and knowledge to improve existing processes and explore new technologies and products. It will provide existing workforce with an opportunity to sharpen their skills and keep current with future technologies. Future workforce can explore the world of advanced manufacturing as well as entrepreneurship.

Some benefits of a makerspace include:

Existing Businesses

- Employees of existing businesses can work on new and/or refined production related products or processes to create efficiencies and reduce costs without impacting current production.
- Small businesses which require periodic access to special equipment for prototyping ideas can pursue with new product ideas.

New Businesses

- Inventors and entrepreneurs have a place to explore their ideas, obtain advice and encouragement.
- Startup businesses can perfect their product ideas, complete prototypes and potentially even small batch production.
- Creative individuals and retired workers who wish to explore ideas and share their knowledge with others – especially youth.

Youth Education

- Develop understanding of skills required for advanced manufacturing
- Elevate advanced manufacturing skills for a recognized prestigious career.
- Encourage seeking education required to fill local advanced manufacturing jobs.

Completing this first step of creating a plan for a makerspace is just the beginning. Mayor Tolbert is confident that with our business and educational partners we can create a physical makerspace. She said, "It is about creating a space where people and business can invent. The location would have a variety of specialized, cutting-edge tools, active programs and the opportunity to share ideas with others." To learn more, please contact Diane Kamionka at dianek@nwirc.com.

Arlington Sees Economic Growth; Welcomes 21 New Retail Businesses

Hard work and focus on the common goal of growing the City's economic base are now paying off for the City. Over the past several years, City staff has been focused on streamlining the City's permit processes to provide clear direction to new businesses wanting to come to Arlington. In addition, City staff have increased recruiting efforts, traveling to major conferences and expos, as well as direct recruiting within the key retail and industrial markets to extoll the benefits of being in Arlington. The City issued 39 new business licenses in 2016, bringing our total to 841. Included in the 2016 new business totals are seven new manufacturing businesses and 21 new retail storefronts.

In 2016, the City saw an 8% increase in sales tax generation, indicating that consumer spending in Arlington has also increased year-over-year during a time in which national consumer spending has remained flat. This increase in sales tax collections reflects a 3.6% increase in new business activity and a 4% increase from existing retail businesses.

The growth in our local economy translates into the ability for the City to reinvest without burdening the taxpayer. We appreciate your efforts to help grow our economy by shopping in our local stores and encouraging companies to locate in Arlington. In 2017, the City will be doing its part by ramping up our Arlington Awaits campaign nationally to further grow our manufacturing and retail sectors.

2017-2018 Budget Priorities

On March 7, 2016, the City Council approved a biennial budget process which authorizes spending on a two year basis. The 2017 – 2018 budget was built within an optimistic but conservative framework and includes resources to strengthen internal controls to ensure safeguarding of public assets, continuation of economic development initiatives that will result in a vibrant community where you can live, work and play, community engagement through public safety programs to promote safety and well-being of our citizens and improvement of vital infrastructure that will balance providing opportunities for growth while preserving the culture of our community.

The biennial budget includes total City revenues of \$51 million in 2017 and \$46 million in 2018. The \$5 million more in revenue for 2017 reflects significant grant revenues that we are able to leverage with City funds to complete major infrastructure work in transportation and utilities.

Total expenditures in 2017 are \$52 million and \$46 million in 2018. The decrease between 2017 and 2018 is because the level of capital spending can vary greatly year to year depending on availability of funding and the size and scope of each individual project. For example, capital spending in 2017 is projected to be \$13 million as compared to \$7 million in 2018.

General fund revenues are projected at \$15.3 million in 2017 and \$15.6 million in 2018. The revenue increase is primarily driven by an increase in retail sales tax revenues due to an increase in economic activity.

In relation to the total City budget, the general fund represents \$15 million. 56% of the general fund budget is spent on public safety, 8% on services from facilities, parks and streets, 8% on debt obligations, 6% on community and economic development and the remainder on executive, administration, legal, human resources, IT and finance.

Biennial Budget Workplans

The biennial budget is reflective of the following departmental work plans which were developed to achieve council goals of economic development and fiscal sustainability:

- Continued contributions toward equipment and technology replacement reserves
- Enhanced internal controls to safeguard public resources
- Continued work with consultants to advance the City's economic development opportunities
- Continuation of the retail marketing program to promote economic development and increase retail sales tax which generate tax revenue for the City
- Community engagement efforts to develop strategies to address issues which impact our citizens
- Continued management of our investment in technology
- Exploration of a Regional Fire Authority concept
- Identify and target gaps in health and human services in Arlington

To view the budget, go to www.arlingtonwa.gov/budget.

Five Things City Council and Staff are Focused on in 2017

1. Seeking regional designation for Manufacturing Industrial Complex:

this designation opens access to state and federal funds, which we could use to convince new manufacturers to open shop here. An August 2016 study showed that businesses in the MIC could generate up to 25,000 family wage jobs.

2. Winning America's Best Communities: Arlington and Darrington are one of eight finalists for the \$3 million prize:

The Mayor feels optimistic about our multi-pronged approach to economic development. The other seven candidates have chosen a single project, so Arlington-Darrington stands out. The ceremony naming the winner is in April.

3. Launching "Arlington Awaits":

A strategic marketing firm out of Seattle, TwentyFive, has created a new website (www.arlingtonawaits.com) and Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/ArlingtonAwaits) to advertise all that Arlington has to offer businesses of all kinds. We want to continue to grow revenues without raising taxes, and new business is the best way to do that. Arlington Awaits features our streamlined permitting process, which allows simultaneous, rather than sequential, progress through permitting. This allows a new business to learn all the boxes to check at the same time.

4. Exploring Regional Fire Authority with Marysville:

members of City Councils from Arlington and Marysville are in discussions to answer "Can we provide the same fire and EMS service levels for less cost if we work together?" We expect this exploration to last all of 2017.

5. Learning from our Health and Human Services consultant: With a grant from United Way of Snohomish County, we contracted for a survey of all local social services so we can understand what services are available locally, which are not, which are duplicated, and which must be sought regionally. We look forward to closing identified gaps and then targeting our outreach to those services most needed and least available.

Mayor's Volunteer Award

Mayor Tolbert's Volunteer Award celebrates citizens' volunteer work and commitment to community service. The first recipient of this new award is Charleen O'Neal. Charleen volunteers 80-90 hours per month at six different venues in Arlington.

Char has been the Vice President of the Friends of the Arlington Library for the past three years. Five days a week, she sorts, shelves and restocks books in the Friends daily book sale. She also bakes treats for the lobby book sale quarterly, and pitches in with the twice-yearly book garage sale. Char joined the board of the Arlington Arts Council two years ago. She always says yes to volunteering at Arts Council events and yearly auction. Char started and staffs the Children's Storybook Garden Program, which occurs six months out of the year. Each program has an educational, garden and art elements. Three years in, the program is now 40 children strong as they learn about growing food, creativity and library resources. Char also volunteers monthly at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club; helping students with art projects. She helps a local disabled woman who cannot leave her home; she visits and brings art supplies. Every Thursday, Char helps pack and distribute 50-60 lunches for persons waiting in line for their turn at the Food Bank.

Congratulations Charleen!

To nominate a volunteer, please complete our form at: www.arlingtonwa.gov/volunteeraward.



Arlington Youth Council Focuses on Teen Center

The newly formed Arlington Youth Council identified the need for additional activities for teens and a recreation center as one of their top priorities. Coincidentally, the Arlington Boys and Girls Club is in the midst of a remodel that includes the addition of a teen center.

The Youth Council met with Bill Tsoukalas, Executive Director Snohomish County Boys and Girls Club and Bill Kinney, manager of the Arlington Club to collaborate on the teen center's features. The teen center will be equipped with technology including gaming center, Wi-Fi, movie theater (big screen and surround sound), digital signage, touch screen computers, and DJ station. The Youth Council was excited to hear about the plans and offered their suggestions such as music recording software, graphic art programming, and teen dances.

Youth Council members offered to help with the grand opening of the Teen Center and to be ambassadors of the teen center. The grand opening could be as soon as April.

Other projects the Youth Council are working on include investigating the possibility of additional teen sports and park equipment for teens, a "street art" contest, and collaborating with Arlington Drug Awareness Coalition.

The Youth Council represents the youth of our community and is seeking input from all youth. Youth can participate through the Arlington Youth Council's Facebook Page at facebook.com/ArlingtonWAYouthCouncil or email youthcouncil@arlingtonwa.gov.

Members of the 2016-2017 Youth Council include: Olivia Walker, Cole Cramer, Alec Villa, Zoe Tapper, Zack Bailey, Mikayla Beckley, and Morgan Bryson. Olivia Walker, an eighth-grader at Post Middle School, said, "I wanted to make a difference in my community and make change for the better."

The Arlington Youth Council was created through an America's Best Communities strategy to encourage young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities. That bond will promote the Stillaguamish Valley as a place where they can grow professionally in the future.



The Update



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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 360-403-3439
- Mayor's Office 360-403-3441
- Natural Resources 360-403-3440
- Parks & Recreation 360-403-3448
- Public Works Utilities 360-403-3526
- Street & Park Maintenance 360-403-3459
- 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



The City of Arlington is pleased to host the 10th annual Stillaguamish Eagle Festival!
www.arlingtonwa.gov/eaglefest 360-403-3448.

February 3-4 2017

Enter the Eagle Photo Contest and Nature Art Contest

Rock, Paper, Scissors Art Show

Saturday, 10am-5pm at Magnolia Hall, 225 E 3rd St.
 Arlington Arts Council invites Snohomish County residents to enter the Eagle Photography contest, and Nature Art Contest. Cash prizes of \$50-\$100! Art entries must be delivered to the show on Friday between noon and 6pm. Contest rules and entry forms are available on website.

Paddle Rafting on the Stillaguamish River

Friday and Saturday at 10:30am. An 8-mile raft journey from Cicero Bridge to Haller Park. Expect multiple bald eagle sightings, views of other wildlife, a lively paddling workout, and a good time. Trip includes a midway lunch stop. Make reservations for this \$60 day trip at 1-800-634-8433.

Country Carvers Chainsaw Carving Show

Friday and Saturday, 9am-5pm at Legion Park. Award winning chainsaw carvers from the Northwest and beyond will carve wooden eagles and other art for the festival. Come see the artists in action! Saturday at 2:30pm ice sculpture demonstration, 3:00 live auction.

Nature Conservancy Port Susan Preserve Guided Tour

Saturday, 10am-noon, Boe Road, Stanwood. One of the finest estuarine habitats in Puget Sound. Wildlife biologists and volunteers will be giving guided tours. Dress warmly and bring your binoculars.

Bird Identification Walk at Stormwater Wetland Park

Saturday, 9am-10am. Meet at the Haller Park parking lot, 1100 West Ave. Audubon member will lead a walk and help identify song birds. Experience trails that lead you through a variety of wetland habitat types. The trail is flat and easy so all ages can enjoy.

Sarvey Wildlife Birds of Prey Open House

Saturday, noon-4pm Open House at City Council Chambers, 110 E Third St. Sarvey Wildlife Center brings special guests to the festival: birds of prey that have been rescued by Sarvey. This is a unique opportunity to see various birds of prey at close range, and to learn about their unique characters and behaviors.

Predators of the Heart Wild Animal Show

Saturday, two shows, 1pm and 3pm at Eagle Creek Elementary, 1216 E 5th St.
 Come and see wild animals of many varieties at this wonderful and unique wildlife experience with a message from Calvary Church. Animals include wolves, reptiles, birds of prey, a mountain lion, and much more. Seating is first come, first serve. Presented by Calvary Arlington.

Hands-on Arts & Crafts Activities and Bake & Soup Sale

Saturday, 11am-3pm at Arlington United Church, 338 N MacLeod Ave. Families will enjoy free hands-on crafting with the Arlington Arts Council. Members of the United Church are hosting a bake sale and soup lunch.

Stillaguamish Salmon Stop

Saturday, 11am-4pm at City Hall-upstairs, 238 N Olympic Ave. Take a look at the salmon life cycle and have fun with craft activities for kids. Presented by the Stillaguamish Tribe and Sound Salmon Solutions.

Petting Farm Barn

Saturday, 11am-3pm at City Hall parking lot, 238 N Olympic Ave. Children and adults will love this barn on wheels. Barn animals include a calf, miniature donkey, miniature pony, goats, sheep, chicken, ducks and bunnies. Presented by Dan Cramer's Western Town.

Western Wildlife's Large Carnivore Education Trailer

Saturday, 11am-3pm at City Hall parking lot, 238 N Olympic Ave.
 The 17ft long Large Carnivore Outreach Education Trailer is emblazoned with educational graphics of black bear, grizzly bear, cougar, gray wolf and coyote. It contains full-body taxidermy mounts of grizzly and black bears, as well as a cougar and several hides.



Ride to Remember Oso

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Celebration of Strong Communities

We will remember those that were lost and affected by the slide by bringing our communities together to ride the road that connects us.

3 Ways to Participate in the Event

28 Mile Bike Ride

The one-way, 28-mile ride starts in downtown Arlington at Legion Park and follows State Route 530 to Oso Loop Road and continues east on SR 530 to the celebration in Darrington. Free return transportation is provided. Rest stop at the Oso Store and support is provided. \$30 registration fee includes shirt. This ride is not recommended for children. 8:00AM start time.

Trail Ride

The JoJo Trail Ride is a family friendly, free ride on the Whitehorse Trail, from Fortson Mill Trail-head to Darrington. The ride is 6 miles to Darrington, or 12 miles round trip. Free return transportation can be arranged when you RSVP. Riders will get a preview of a section of the Whitehorse Trail, an unpaved trail that connects Arlington and Darrington. 10:00AM start time.

Celebration of Strong Communities Event

In Darrington, we will celebrate our resilience as we look toward the future and our shared goals for economic development, revitalization and preservation of our quality of life in our valley. Please join us after your ride at the Community Center for food, refreshments, reflection, and a celebration of the accomplishments we have made together through the America's Best Communities program. Time 11:00AM-1:00PM

To register and more information: www.ridetorememberoso.com

The Story Behind the Ride to Remember Oso

Saturday, March 22, 2014 is a day etched into the memory of everyone in the Stillaguamish Valley. A mile-long, mile-wide landslide brought an estimated 10 million cubic yards of mud crashing through a neighborhood, killing 43 people, blocking the Stillaguamish River and burying State Route 530, the vital connection between Darrington, Oso and Arlington. The landslide was the worst disaster in Washington state since the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

As families and friends grieved over their losses, the father of one young victim visited Arlington Velo Sport with the wish to create a custom bike to remember the young son he had lost, Jovan 'JoJo' Mangual. In that work and subsequent conversations, the idea of a remembrance ride was born.

In the aftermath of that devastating day, strong bonds emerged that unite the communities of the Stilly Valley. Together, we created a plan for revitalization captured in our work as America's Best Communities finalists. The premise for this national awards program is "Community is powerful. When neighbors and businesses come together around a common goal, they can be unstoppable." As the third anniversary of the slide approaches, we want to honor and remember family, friends, and community members whose lives were lost, and the people that came together committed to preserving our valley's future.