



THE UPDATE

January 2021

City Supports In-Need with 2020 CARES Funds

The City distributed \$285,000 to 8 local non-profits to help with COVID-19 related expenses. The nonprofits assisted the public with housing rent, child care payments, senior services, food, children's clothing, cold weather shelter, and education issues. The City of Arlington received the money from Coronavirus Relief Funds for Local Government Program (CARES Act Funds).

We were also able to assist 96 households with one time utility payment credit.

COVID-19 Resources

- WA State Coronavirus Response www.coronavirus.wa.gov
- News Releases
- Phased Approach to Recovery
- Business & Workers Information

Snohomish Health Department

- www.snohd.org/ncov2019
- Arlington, Snohomish County Case Count
- Vaccine Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- General Information and Resources

City of Arlington

- www.arlingtonwa.gov/coronavirus
- City Operational Changes
- Community Event Information
- Community Resources/In Need Resources
- Masks for Arlington Information
- Business Resources

Community Resources

- Arlington Community Bank
- 360-435-1631
- Arlington Community Resource Center
- 360-322-6989

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

How soon can we get back to pre-pandemic activities?

Even after you are vaccinated, you should wear a face cover.
Stay home if you feel sick.
Avoid large gatherings, or any gatherings that are indoors and unmasked. Wash your hands.
Keep at least six feet from people you don't live with.

www.snohd.org/covidvaccine

Message from the Mayor

All of us at the City are working hard to find ways to support our community, and help keep it vital and healthy. We are working closely with the Snohomish Health District, whose partnership during this pandemic has been important, to establish vaccine sites within our community. Our first responders have received the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as residents in senior living care facilities, and we are actively working to secure sites for the next priority groups. Please continue to monitor www.snohd.org/covidvaccine for updates.

I look forward to the time when we can reopen our facilities and welcome you back in person. We are continuing to follow the Governor's orders and remain closed to public at this time. In the meantime, we are available by phone or email, and have become very skilled at conducting Zoom meetings.

We are continuing to work on ways to increase employment opportunities inside Arlington. One of our primary goals is that Arlington be a great place to work and live, with optimal quality of life for our citizens.

I urge you to continue to support local establishments in ways you can afford. The fastest way to help our businesses during these current restrictions is to continue to support them. Working with the chamber of commerce, we have developed ways to purchase from local businesses online shoplocalarlington.com.

If you are struggling, please reach out to organizations that are ready to help, including the Arlington Community Resource Center and Arlington Community Food Bank. They have been blessings to our community during the pandemic.

Please do your part and remain vigilant, while continuing to follow the health district's recommendations. Wear a mask, practice social distancing, and be patient, as we look forward to reopening our community with a new appreciation of unrestricted celebrations and get togethers.

Sincerely,

Mayor Barb Tolbert



City Administrator Paul Ellis and Mayor Barb Tolbert

New Snohomish County Jobs Portal SnoCoWork.com

Originating in the City of Arlington, the SnoCoWork.com project is a Snohomish County online jobs portal that matches employers and job candidates specifically in Snohomish County. The online portal enables job seekers to find local employment and give employers a powerful resource to fill hundreds of positions that are currently available in Snohomish County. This project has been funded through Federal CARES Act resources.

The concept for the project has been championed by Arlington's Mayor, Barbara Tolbert. "There are many positions available in Arlington, and the success we've had in creating an economic development zone in the Cascade Industrial Center is only fueling opportunities," said Mayor Tolbert. "It is important that our workforce is exposed to and has access to these career choices, not just in Arlington, but across the County."

The benefits of the portal are tangible:

- No-cost to employers to post jobs or search candidates based on skill sets
- No-cost to candidates to apply for jobs, contact employers, maintain profile
- Provides a resource for the program's partners to use with their audiences
- Provides a resource to employers who are in immediate need of people
- Provides an outreach resource for candidates struggling to find local work
- Delivers analytics and metrics about the effectiveness and use of the portal



Partnering for Success: SnoCoWork.com will partner with Snohomish County and organizations across the county to increase exposure to the platform including Sno-Isle Libraries, Workforce Snohomish, Arlington Cascade Industrial Center, the Innovation Center Project, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, and the WSU Snohomish County extension.

CITY COUNCIL CONTACTS

Administration Office: 360-403-3441
Mayor: Barb Tolbert btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov

City Council Members:

- Jesica Stickles jesicas@arlingtonwa.gov
- Don Vanney donv@arlingtonwa.gov
- Debora Nelson deboran@arlingtonwa.gov
- Michele Blythe micheleb@arlingtonwa.gov
- Marilyn Oertle marilyno@arlingtonwa.gov
- Mike Hopson mikeh@arlingtonwa.gov
- Jan Schuette jans@arlingtonwa.gov

CITY MEETINGS

The City is conducting meetings virtually. Zoom video conferencing is being used for City Council, Planning Commission, and other essential meetings, with a platform for the public to provide comment. Meetings are streamed on the City's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/cityofarlingtonwashington. For current information go to: www.arlingtonwa.gov calendar or agenda center.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- City Council Workshop: 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00 p.m. 360-403-3441
- Airport Commission: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. 360-403-3470
- Cemetery Board: the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. 360-403-3428
- Civil Service Commission: 1st Wed. of the month at 9:00 a.m. 360-403-3443
- Library Board: Meets quarterly at 5:30 p.m. 360-403-3441
- Parks Arts Recreation Commission: 4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. 360-403-3448
- Planning Commission: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. 360-403-3435
- Youth Council: 2nd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. 360-403-3448

City Emphasizes Support to Small Business

The City has made a serious effort to support our local businesses that are critical for our local economy and local culture. In December, we distributed \$97,300 to 33 Arlington businesses, bringing the total amount of Arlington business rent/COVID-19 relief grants to \$349,363. In addition, the City granted utility payment relief to Arlington businesses that applied, totaling \$5,600. Funding provided by the CARES Act. Businesses can stay informed of these opportunities by following the City's e-newsletter and social media, and following Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce news; updates and opportunities are also posted on City, Chamber, and WA State Department of Commerce webpages.

Arlington mayor and staff have been working in conjunction with the Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Arlington Business Association, Main Street Committee, and the Economic Recovery Committee to implement ways to support businesses since the Washington State mandates took effect. We encourage businesses to take part in these meetings. Businesses share information, what is working for them, and how they can support each other. Local banks and advisors have been assisting with loans and grant applications. Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce Director Mandy Kruger said, "We are grateful for the City's full partnership and collaboration to ensure we have a menu of items to support our businesses during this challenging time. All of our businesses are important to the culture of our community." For information on meetings, contact Sarah Lopez at slopez@arlingtonwa.gov, 360-403-3448.

A recent initiative to support retail, was the creation of an online marketplace exclusively featuring Arlington businesses. The Chamber received CARES funding through the City to create the online marketplace, Shop Local Arlington (shoplocalarlington.com). Businesses, including retail, restaurants and services, can join for free and sell products, services and gift cards on the marketplace. The chamber has promoted shopping local and the marketplace by producing a series of video advertisements featuring local small businesses, and working with a social media influencer to create Arlington gift guides and expanded marketing. Businesses can register to join the marketplace by going to www.shoplocalarlington.com, or contacting Chamber Executive Director, Mandy Kruger, at mandy@stillyvalleychamber.com.

To support restaurants and dining, the City deployed additional outdoor dining areas in the downtown and created comprehensive restaurant rack cards and 10-minute parking signage for take-out, as part of an outdoor eatery campaign (www.arlingtonoutdooreatery.com). The Arlington City Council passed an ordinance to allow for outdoor eating in parking stalls. Restaurants can apply to create additional outdoor areas by contacting the City.

The City supports and hosts downtown events to draw people downtown for commerce and provide community. Volunteers and staff spent time imagining ways to re-create Hometown Holidays in a meaningful way that still attracted people to town. The Chamber of Commerce extended the Farmers Market into December as another attraction for downtown commerce. We look forward to more of these markets and additional street closures for dining.

Arlington has enlisted additional help with the economic recovery. WSU Extension has been assisting implementation of these initiatives and studying innovative ways to mobilize during this business crisis. There are also business experts ready to help, including WA Small Business Development Center, SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), and NW Innovation Resource Center. These are free services available to businesses. SCORE business mentors are ready to discuss any questions or ideas. Business owners are encouraged to reach out with any concern. Contact information is available at www.arlingtonwa.gov/COVIDbusiness.

Now is the time to hear your suggestions for business sustainability in Arlington. This crisis is an opportunity to collaborate with other businesses and create a sustainable future for small business. "The most important thing right now is that we hear your ideas and how we can partner with you," said Mayor Barb Tolbert. Please email the Mayor at btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov, or call 360-403-3441, to set up an appointment to meet with the Mayor and staff.

Fire/EMS Annexation Update, Vote in February

Annexation to North County Regional Fire Authority on Feb. 9 Special Election Ballot By Fire Chief Dave Kraski



The City of Arlington is asking voters to annex its fire department to North County Regional Fire Authority (NCRFA) on the February 9, 2021 Special Election ballot. The purpose of annexing is to protect the quality and level of emergency services that our community requires.

If annexation is approved, property owners would pay a dedicated fire and EMS Levy directly to NCRFA. In turn, the City will lower its general property tax levy, repeal its EMS Levy and eliminate the Ambulance Utility Fee. The City would retain some property tax revenue for services the community wants, such as police, roads, parks, trails, and community facilities.

Annexation would take effect in August 2021 with property owners seeing the change to their tax statements in 2022. It is estimated in 2022 that 54% of City homeowners would save money or pay the same for emergency services. Twenty-eight percent would see an increase up to \$5 per month/\$60 per year, and 18% would see an increase greater than \$5 per month. These amounts are based on the most current data available for home values.

As part of NCRFA, City residents who require an ambulance would no longer be billed for transport costs in excess of what is covered by their insurance. Capital needs such as fire stations, apparatus and equipment would be shared by more people, which also reduces costs for taxpayers.

If annexation is unsuccessful, the City would have to double the Ambulance Utility Fee paid by all utility customers from \$15 to \$30 a month and increase the EMS levy. This would be necessary to prevent emergency service level cuts in the future.

The Arlington Fire Department has a long-standing partnership in place with NCRFA. We currently share administrative positions, training programs and part-time employees. Under annexation, all fire department staff and personnel would become employees of NCRFA, and our local firefighters have endorsed this proposal.

Arlington would still have fire stations in the City, fire prevention programs in schools, and local firefighters participating in community events. City residents also would be eligible to vote on Fire Authority matters such as fire commissioners, levies, and bonds.

The City website www.arlingtonwa.gov/RFA is an excellent source of information. You also can contact me (360-403-3607, dkraski@arlingtonwa.gov) or City Administrator Paul Ellis (360-403-4603, pellis@arlingtonwa.gov) with questions. We appreciate you considering our request.



Generosity is Amazing! Arlington Fire Department Santa Run Food Drive Reports

Off-duty fire department staff escorted Santa on a 10-night tour of Arlington neighborhoods spreading holiday cheer and collected 17,066 pounds of food and \$3,007 for the Arlington Food Bank.

"In a year compromised in so many ways by the Coronavirus, we ended strong with our biggest year ever," Chief Dave Kraski said.

Executive Director of the Arlington Community Food Bank, Carla Gastineau, reported, "The demand on our food supply has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while regular food donations have decreased with most events and businesses closed this past year. The Arlington Food Bank is extremely grateful for the extraordinary efforts of the Arlington Fire Department for adapting this year's Santa Run making it a contact-free, safe activity for the community whose generosity continues to help us ensure no one in our neighborhoods go hungry."

The 2021 – 2022 budget process presented new challenges with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. Shortly after the pandemic began, businesses started to close which had a significant impact on the economy. The City took proactive action and immediately reduced department operating budgets by 10%. These reductions were carried over in the 2021 – 2022 budget as there is still much uncertainty about how COVID-19 will continue to impact the economy and the City's budget. The biennial budget took a conservative approach as we move forward into these unprecedented times. The budget reflects several major themes; cost reductions without impacting services, economic recovery, no new discretionary spending, and maintaining financial reserves.

The biennial budget includes total City revenues of \$58 million in 2021 and \$60 million in 2022. The \$3 million more in revenue for 2022 reflects anticipated grant receipts that we are able to leverage with City funds to complete major infrastructure work at the airport for the Runway 16/34 overlay project. Total expenditures in 2021 are \$73 million, and \$66 million in 2022. The biennial budget includes approximately \$42 million in infrastructure improvements to the City's transportation system, fiber, parks, utilities and airport. About \$11.8 million of those projects is expected to be funded by grants.

General fund revenues are projected at \$18 million for both years in the biennium with no revenue growth expected. General fund expenses are projected at \$19 million per year. About 75% of the general fund budget is from tax revenue, the majority of which comes from property taxes, retail sales taxes and utility taxes. 54% of the general fund budget is spent on public safety. The budget reflects reducing the general fund's one month operating reserve by about \$1 million between 2021 and 2022 to provide crucial services to the community as we move into the recovery phase of the economy. Even with the reduction in fund balance, minimum reserve levels per financial policies will be maintained.

The City continues its commitment to financial stewardship by taking a forward thinking approach to the budgeting process. The City develops a 10-year financial forecast and has reserve policies in place to mitigate any unexpected impacts from the economy. This approach helped the City maneuver through the COVID-19 pandemic with little to no impact to the services we provide to Arlington citizens. Because of the pandemic and the continued uncertainty of when the economy will fully recover, in the next biennium the City will continue to maintain its one month operating reserve and increase the City's mandatory reserve from 8% of budgeted licenses and taxes to 9%. Having adequate reserves in place gives the City flexibility to slowly make adjustments in the event of a revenue shortfall, minimizing impact to our services.

Other means to maintain fiscal sustainability in the budget include; the 2020 budget reductions were carried forward to 2021-2022, three positions, through attrition, were not budgeted in either year of the biennium. Of the three positions, one was eliminated and two positions remain unfilled until revenues are sufficient to support the costs. The City has also put a hiring freeze in effect for non-essential positions. These decisions were not made lightly, and they were made to preserve the City's level of service, minimize impacts to City employees, and to create an opportunity for the City to focus on economic recovery for the Arlington community.

One key focus of this biennial budget will be on investment in infrastructure to promote economic recovery. The City will be investing nearly \$42 million in infrastructure over the next two years so that businesses have opportunities to rebuild and grow and to incentivize new businesses to locate here to provide jobs. In addition to job creation, investment in infrastructure is vital to the economy. Investment in transportation infrastructure is important because it provides the efficient and safe movement of people, goods and services, and it connects households to employment, education and healthcare opportunities. The investment in utility infrastructure provides for residents and business to have access to clean water. Investment in technology such as fiber, allows for economic development opportunities by facilitating fair and open competition for technology services driving the costs down and to provide businesses and residents with the greatest diversity of services now and in the future. Some of the major infrastructure projects included in this biennial budget are;

- Fiber conduit
- Construction of 173rd Avenue
- Final construction of the 204th and 77th St. roundabout
- Design and construction of 40th Avenue and SR 531 improvements
- Design and construction of SR 530 roundabout
- Runway 16/34 overlay
- Water main replacements
- Water treatment plant design and construction
- Prairie Creek culvert
- Gleneagle and 520 reservoir improvements

Public Safety is a critical portion of the City's operating budget. In the last biennium the City added six full-time public safety positions, which included three additional police officers and three additional firefighters. In 2022, the City plans to hire an additional police support officer, and three positions for a dedicated Basic Life Support Unit in the EMS department.

"I want to thank staff and City Council for their diligence in building a fiscally responsible budget that reflects my desire for the City, its staff, the citizens and business community to be prosperous in the next biennium, and years to come. I wish everyone a safe and healthy future and look forward to continuing my service to you," Mayor Barb Tolbert.

View the budget at www.arlingtonwa.gov/budget

One of the most common topics of inquiry from the public is about new development and construction around town. Information is available to you on our website pages and you are always welcome to call or email us. Some information may not be available to the public if a private project has not been through the permit process.

Community Development Project Map: The online "Current Activity Map" identifies the location of permitted commercial and residential projects within the City, and provides the public with information as to where the project is in the development process. www.arlingtonwa.gov/activitymap. Click on map to enlarge and click on colored projects for more information.

Public Works Transportation 2035 Capital Plan
The vision for the future of the City's transportation network. www.arlingtonwa.gov/398/Transportation

Current Public Works Projects:
Projects include upgrading of utilities to improve service and support new development; improving highways, arterials, and neighborhood streets; and addressing safety issues. www.arlingtonwa.gov/pwprojects

Utility and Paving Projects for 2021:
The City has been replacing waterlines and paving in Old Town Arlington area, work continues in 2021. www.arlingtonwa.gov/paving



Public Art Projects

Since developing a public art strategic plan and funding mechanism, the City and community has been working on several art projects to further enhance the place we live, work, and play.

2020 projects included: Replacement of faded art banners for light poles, murals on the skateboard park, a granite sculpture on Airport Boulevard, an artistic bench for Airport Boulevard (to be installed in 2021), Suddenly Dragons interactive art summer project, and partial funding for Eagle's Come Home sculpture (photo) at Gleneagle Entrance near 67th Avenue. An artistic element will be added to the 204th roundabout when construction is completed.

"Eagles Come Home represents the efforts of our community to bring forth a piece of art to be enjoyed by all," said George Brain of Gleneagle community. "The work was possible through the collaborative efforts of the The Gleneagle Community Foundation, the vision and dedication of the Gleneagle Landscape Committee, the generous support of our Gleneagle and Arlington residents, and the support of local businesses and City involvement."



Please look forward to more art projects in 2021, including: vintage postcard welcome signage, art discovery guide booklets, sculpture at the Airport office, leaping metal rabbits, an additional artistic bench for Airport Boulevard, and a sculpture for the art walk on Centennial Trail.

For more information about the Public Art Program, Visit www.arlingtonwa.gov/art or contact Sarah Lopez slopez@arlingtonwa.gov 360-403-3448.

City Council Highlights

Elected officials have been working on the following:

September

Authorized funding for Arlington businesses online marketplace using CARES funds
Awarded contract for Island Crossing span wire
Established franchise agreement with Puget Sound Energy
Reviewed 2020 Comprehensive Plan docket items

October

Council 2021-2022 Budget Retreat
Annual State Audit Exit Conference
Road Mitigation Agreement Renewal with Snohomish County
Budget Authority to use CARES ACT funding for Airport Vehicle Youth Council Appointments
Replacement of Access Control/Camera System for Police Department
Resolution for the Fine Screen Repair/Replacement at the Water Reclamation Facility
Mayor's Volunteer Award to Skip Smith for 21 years on the Cemetery Board

November

Resolution Establishing the City as a Public Aircraft Operator
Resolution Approving the Regional Fire Authority Planning Document and Annexation
Interlocal Agreement to Share Costs with North County Regional Fire Authority
Revisions to City Council Rules of Procedure and Code of Ethics
Joint Meeting – City Council, Planning Commission, Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission
Joint Meeting – City Council, Arlington School District, Public Hospital District #1, and Public Hospital District #3
Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for Information Technology and GIS Services
PUD Easement Request for 63rd Avenue NE and 188th Street NE
Acceptance of Dedication of Real Property for Public Right of Way – 188th St NE
Acceptance of Dedication of Real Property for Public Right of Way – 63rd Ave NE
Public Art Proposals for 2021
Ordinance Adopting 2021/2022 Budget
Resolution setting the 2021 Regular Property Tax Levy
Resolution setting the 2021 EMS Tax Levy

December

Informational Briefing by David Fleckenstein, WSDOT Aviation Division Director
Public Hearings and Approval for Ordinance Approving 2020 Budget Amendments
Resolution Approving the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan
Development Agreement with NorthPoint Development, LLC
Ordinance Adopting Capital Facilities Plan for Arlington School District
Ordinance Adopting Capital Facilities Plan for Lakewood School District
Resolution to add Annexation into North County Regional Fire Authority to 2/9/21 Ballot
Resolution to Reduce a Portion of the General Levy Rate
Professional Services Agreement with Southam Creative, LLC. for SnoCwork.com Project

January

Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing
Declaration for surplus equipment
Re-appointed Airport Commissioner Ruth Gonzales
Appointed Citizen Salary Commission
Executive Order Restaurant and Retail Recovery Plan
Reappointment Mayor Dan Rankin to Snohomish Health District Board Representative
Fire Station 48 Change Order 1
Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Marysville for Court and Jail Services
Franchise Renewal with Comcast
Interlocal Agreement with ASD for School Resource Officer
Professional Services Agreement for Domestic Violence Coordinator



2021 Arlington-Stillaguamish Eagle Festival is revised this year, due to the COVID-19 gathering restrictions. Activities are on your own or virtual. We have compiled a plethora of nature activities for you to explore.

To entice you even more, the Stillaguamish Tribe is offering prize drawings for Eagle Festival participants, including a \$300 gift certificate to North Cascades Institute for an overnight stay or outdoor activities. Complete the Eagle Bingo Card by February 14. Brochures are available at the gazebo at Legion Park or online.

Visit www.arlingtonwa.gov/eaglefest for full descriptions of activities and how to enter contests and drawings. Brochures are available at outdoor kiosks at Legion Park and City Hall in downtown Arlington.

Activities include:

Eagle Photo Contest
Nature Haiku Contest
Outdoor Nature Art Show
Eagle Fest Wood Carving Display
Stilly Valley Trek Fitness Event
Recommended Book List
Apps to Identify Plants and Birds
Wolf Haven Activities
Discover Your Watershed
A Salmon's Journey
Salmon Life Cycle Video

Places to Visit:

Arlington Stormwater Wetland Park
Portage Creek Wildlife Area
Squire Creek Park
Leque Island-Stanwood Levee Trail
Fortson Mill Ponds
Port Susan Preserve Nature Conservancy
Stillaguamish Valley Watershed Model
Skagit River Bald Eagle Center

Stilly Valley Trek Fitness Event!

Did you know an eagle flies 30 miles a day on average? How many "eagle days" will you commit to exercising and other activities that get you moving and exploring your Valley during this year's festival? Participants of all ages and abilities can register online with their own exercise goals to reach between Jan. 23 and Feb. 13. The first 50 people to register will receive a free pedometer! All exercise counts for this virtual event – walk the Centennial Trail, log your stroll around the neighborhood, track the time you spend on your Zoom yoga. Prizes from local businesses will be awarded in age categories and include: most miles, fun photos, creative videos, and most time spent exercising. Everyone who registers will also be eligible for drawings. Register at stillyvalleyhealth.org. Upload pictures and videos of your own trek to social media using #StillyValleyTrek.



Want more news?

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

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