

ARLINGTON UPDATE



JANUARY 2023

Message from the Mayor

Dear Citizens,

Be assured that City Council and I have prioritized improving traffic infrastructure to catch up with the rapid growth Arlington and the Pacific Northwest is experiencing. There are several large scale projects that are in design and funded, that will address traffic issues you may be experiencing. Currently, we are working on a redesign for Smokey Point Boulevard to create a better roadway for the people living and commuting in the neighborhood. Improvements to State Highway 530, including roundabouts at 59th Avenue and 211th Place, should happen this year. Representative Rick Larsen helped secure Federal funding for 169th Street Connection. Both 169th and new road 173rd will serve as alternative routes to bypass 172nd Street/SR 531. The Transportation Benefit Program, if passed by voters in February, will allow us to continue to improve neighborhoods with solar stop signs and crossing signals, as needed. Please take a look at all the scheduled projects at www.arlingtonwa.gov/PWprojects.

In addition, the City is focused on a holistic approach for public safety, that includes all of our City departments. We have implemented and funded programs to support mental health and homelessness with service providers such as Arlington Community Resource Center and the Integrated Mental Health Program that works with our Police Department. The Police Department is fully staffed and has been able to do targeted enforcement in areas experiencing crime. We are investing in cameras for our parks, and continue to improve and build new park facilities for your quality of life.

The City is here to serve you. Please reach out to us with your concerns, and continue to follow our communication channels for constant information. Sign up for weekly e-newsletters on our website.

- Mayor Barb Tolbert



Arlington Transportation Benefit District Vote February 14

Improving Streets for Safety, Capacity and Pedestrians

The City and surrounding communities have experienced growth beyond our projections. We are heavily focused on infrastructure development and congestion relief. The Transportation Benefit Program has allowed us to rebuild existing streets, and if approved for another 10 years, will allow us to add safety elements and help with road capacity projects.

The Transportation Benefit Program was approved by voters in 2013 for a 0.2 percent sales tax (2 cents on a \$10 purchase) on services and items purchased inside the city. The funds collected were used to improve the streets within the city limits. We made great progress, paving and improving 18.9 miles of roadway, but there is more work to be done.

Funding is always the critical piece of transportation projects, and Arlington has been successful at acquiring grants for large projects. As traditional funding from the gas tax declines with more efficient cars on the roads, the Transportation Benefit funds will be vital to improve our roads.

Voters have the opportunity to continue the tax for another 10 years. The funding will not only be used for paving and improving, but adding traffic calming devices and pedestrian safety, designed for neighborhoods.

Police Chief Jonathan Ventura and North County Fire Deputy Chief Dave Kraski are featured in a video describing how traffic calming devices work on city streets.

For more information and to view video:

www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP



Arlington Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood Survey

The City of Arlington is working on completing the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will meet the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act and align with Puget Sound Regional Council Policy Vision 2050 and the Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies.

As an urban-edge city currently consisting of nine square miles, Arlington's population of 19,868 (2020 census) is expected to grow by about 8,500 households with a projected population of 34,649 by 2044, according to Snohomish County's Buildable Lands Report.

This Comprehensive Plan will provide strategies to encourage, create, and support equity with placemaking, neighborhood connectivity, economic stability and vibrancy, resilience and sustainability, diverse and efficient residential growth, recreational/park opportunities, for the quality of life of City of Arlington's residents and businesses.

Your Input is Needed

The City is inviting you to complete a survey with information about various aspects of your neighborhood. The survey includes questions about your neighborhood appearance, walkability, bus stops, lighting, safety, proximity of essentials such as groceries, proximity of medical services, work opportunities, housing variety, location of parks and trails and other amenities. The questions are yes/no answers, but you also have the option to provide comments.

<https://arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024>

Planning for an Improved Smokey Point Corridor

To plan for the growth in Arlington and to revitalize the Smokey Point area, the City is designing improvements for Smokey Point Boulevard from 174th Place NE to 200th Street NE (about 1.6 miles). These improvements will support future growth and help create a community corridor for small businesses and existing and potential residents. The new roadway will be developed as a walkable, urban business and residential neighborhood corridor. The Smokey Point Boulevard was previously Highway 99 and developed in unincorporated Snohomish County.

The new design will improve safety, reduce congestion, improve aesthetics, and increase access within the neighborhood. The design features a two-lane street with additional drop lanes for bicycles and parking, sidewalks, landscaping and lighting. Skilled professionals, such as traffic engineers and award-winning infrastructure design consultants are working with our Community & Economic Development, Public Works and Public Safety departments for the best design. The team has had several meetings with the public and solicited input with an online survey.

The actual construction of the design will take place over time, as the city makes improvements to existing right-of-ways and as new businesses and housing develops.

Currently the City is working on construction drawings for roundabouts at 180th Street and 188th Street for construction in 2024, and a roundabout at 174th Place for construction in 2025.

The City has purchased a vacant lot next to Smokey Point Community Church to build a community park/civic area. This area of the city was identified as lacking community park space in Arlington's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please stay tuned as the public is invited to help with the design of the park.

To address current crime and issues in the Smokey Point area, the Mayor worked with Arlington Police to strategically focus on the area. Local businesses have reported that they have seen a difference with the targeted enforcement.

Visit our website for more information:

www.arlingtonwa.gov/smokeypointdesign

If you have questions or concerns on this project, please call the City Project Hotline at 360-403-3544 or email cityprojects@arlingtonwa.gov



City Secured over \$5 Million in Grants in 2022

The City works hard to secure funding to supplement the City budget and to provide additional services. Approximately \$5,142,000 was expended in 2022 from grants. Below is a snapshot of some of the grants. Many additional transportation grants span several years and are currently being planned.

- Smokey Point Blvd. Corridor design \$476,000
- Stormwater Capacity Requirements \$25,000
- Housing Action Plan Implementation \$100,000
- Food Truck Court \$1,366,000
- Haller Park Shelter and picnic tables \$60,000
- Events \$18,000
- Law Enforcement grants \$45,000
- Utility Customer Assistance \$10,700
- Mobile Integrated Health \$375,000
- Airport Improvement projects \$2,654,000

Bridging School to Work Opportunities with Internships

With the job market experiencing a scarcity of qualified employees, it only makes sense to invest early in quality high school career programs. This summer, businesses have the opportunity to host student interns, which will provide businesses a competitive advantage in recruiting the best workers.

Employers will provide high school students exposure to various occupations and essential employment skills. Students will learn what employers are looking for while earning 0.5 credits towards graduation as they complete a 90-hour unpaid internship over the summer.

“Last summer, the first year of the program, it was incredibly rewarding to watch students learn new skills from local employers. As a result of the internship program, two students were employed. This is the goal of the Internship Program to bridge school to work,” said Lisa Rodina, School to Work Coordinator.

The City of Arlington is excited to participate in the training of our future workforce. We look forward to offering an introduction to the City to intern applicants, in departmental areas of: Public Works, Community Development, Finance, and the Executive Office.

The goal of this program is to develop future employees in fields that need employees, support our local workforce, and provide a pathway for students who may need encouragement and support to find a career.

If businesses are interested in learning more about the Summer Internship Program, or how to participate in an upcoming job fair in May, please contact Lisa Rodino, School to Work Coordinator, at aci@asd.wednet.edu or 360-618-6330. The deadline to participate for Summer 2023 internships is January 31, 2023.

City Council and Planning Commission Meetings New Start Times

Beginning in January, City Council meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and Planning Commission meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. (instead of 7:00 p.m.).

City Council workshops are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, in the City Council Chambers, 110 E. 3rd Street.

Planning Commission meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, in the City Council Chambers, 110 E. 3rd Street.

City Council and Planning Commission meetings are recorded on the City's YouTube Channel at: www.YouTube.com/cityofarlingtonwashington

For current meeting information, go to: www.arlingtonwa.gov calendar or agenda center.

2022 Art Beautification Projects

With the public art fund, the City has been able to beautify public spaces throughout the city. We hope that you have noticed how the art supports our city's small town identity and quality of life. Stay tuned for more projects in 2023! To view, go to www.arlingtonwa.gov/art

- 60 new holiday themed banners along 67th Avenue corridor, Smokey Point and at major intersections in town
- Art designs for banners and a bird themed bench for 173rd Street
- A whimsical bench at the senior center bus stop
- An airplane-themed bench on Airport Blvd. Trail
- Farm-themed metal photo art for bus stops to be installed at Kent Prairie neighborhood
- A mural of the Stillaguamish River on a building on Olympic Avenue
- Glass mosaic depicting the Stillaguamish Valley at the Peace Plaza on the Centennial Trail
- Additional painted art at the Skate Park
- A garden mural on a building at the Cemetery
- A sculpture for the new roundabout on 172nd Street (in production)
- Artistic outdoor interpretive maps for the Centennial Trail (to be installed)
- Plywood wings (to be installed)

"Wonderland" Bench by Lance Carleton at Stilly Valley Center



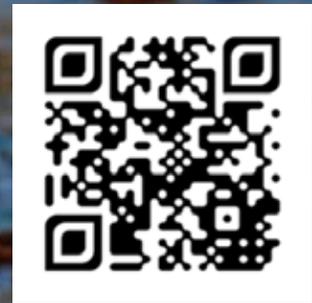


City of Arlington
238 N Olympic Ave
Arlington, WA 98223

ARLINGTON-STILLAGUAMISH

EAGLE FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 4**



ARLINGTONWA.GOV/EAGLEFEST

Chainsaw Wood Carving Show & Auctions

Thursday- Saturday Feb. 2-4
Auctions Friday & Saturday at 4pm
Legion Park

Guided Rafting Trips on the Stillaguamish River Friday & Saturday

Enter the Nature Art Show

Eagle Photos, Nature Art, Nature Photos, Haiku Poetry
Cash prizes up to \$200
Entries will be displayed at the art show on Saturday
Rules online at www.arlingtonwa.gov/eaglefest

Saturday Activities

Sky Valley Tractor Club Display
Wagon Rides through Downtown
Eagle Quest Passport Walk Downtown
Market Vendors
Live Reptile Shows at 11am & 1pm at Olympic Theater
Nature Art Show at Lifeway Cafe
Children's Free Crafting Activity at Council Chambers
Visit with local nature organizations
Visit Stillaguamish Valley Museum

Nature Activities and Places to Visit!