

# LIVING BY THE NOOKSACK

A Quarterly Newsletter from the City of Ferndale



## Winter/Spring 2024

While many community members follow City activity on social media and the City website, not everyone has the time or resources to do so.

This quarterly newsletter is one of the City of Ferndale's efforts to inform residents and help the community understand what is going on in the city.

### Inside this newsletter, read about:

- Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
- Ferndale Feature: News from the Police Department (page 2)
- Welcoming 2024 Elected Officials
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Community Involvement Ideas
- Open House Save the Date
- . . and more!

Please contact Communications & Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at:

360-685-2353 or [meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org](mailto:meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org)

with any questions or comments about the City Newsletter.

This newsletter is accessible online at [www.cityofferndale.org/newsletter](http://www.cityofferndale.org/newsletter)



[www.facebook.com/cityofferndale](https://www.facebook.com/cityofferndale)



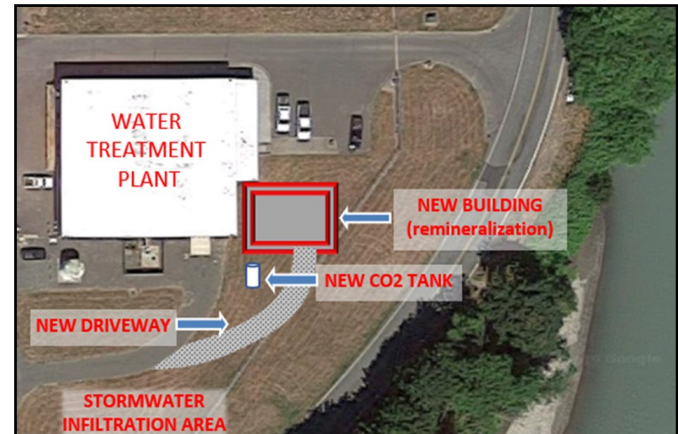
[@ferndalewaofficial](https://www.instagram.com/ferndalewaofficial)

## WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION

Construction of the expansion of the City's Water Treatment Plant has begun. The expansion will provide additional capacity for treatment and increase flexibility in utilization of the City's two aquifers, creating greater consistency and better quality with lower hardness.

Current operations include both reverse osmosis and green sand filtration to produce water for the City's needs. Under the current treatment system, use of the lower aquifer is limited, reducing flexibility and redundancy within the system. Upgrades will transition the treatment methodology to 100% reverse osmosis with selective mineral addition for hardness, pH balance, and aesthetics. With the expansion and removal of the green sand filters, there will be space for two additional reverse osmosis units and a future third unit to the three the plant currently has.

These extra units will eliminate the need for green sand filtration processing, allowing 100% of the water to be treated through reverse osmosis, maintaining greater consistency and higher quality. With a total of five units, the plant will be able to treat around 2,300 gallons of water per minute (at peak flows),



with the current average being 1,200 gallons per minute, resulting in greater capacity and output. The treatment capacity of the plant will be increased to meet the City's needs as the population continues to grow.

Construction for this project began in December 2023 and current projections anticipate construction to be complete in 18 months (Summer 2025). This is an exciting project for the City, as this expansion is expected to sustain higher output and quality for the next 20 years. For questions regarding the Water Treatment Plant expansion project, please contact Public Works Director Kevin Renz at 360-685-2376 or [kevinrenz@cityofferndale.org](mailto:kevinrenz@cityofferndale.org). For questions specifically about the Water Treatment Plant and its processes, please contact Public Utilities Superintendent Mike Olinger at 360-384-4607 or [mikeolinger@cityofferndale.org](mailto:mikeolinger@cityofferndale.org).

To hear more about the Water Treatment Plant Expansion and other City projects, please join the City for an Open House on March 20, 2024. See page 4 for details.

# FERNDALE FEATURE: FERNDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICE DEPARTMENT ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

The Ferndale Police Department Online Citizen Reporting System allows residents to submit a report immediately and print a copy of the police report for free. The online reporting system can be used for non-emergencies if the incident occurred within Ferndale City limits, there are no known suspects, and did not occur on a state freeway.

Using the Ferndale Police Department Online Citizen Reporting System, you can report incidents such as: lost and/or damaged property, telephone harassment, thefts, and supplemental reports. If your incident is not listed in the category selection list, please call 911 to file your report or for emergencies.



To file a report using the Ferndale Police Department Police Online Citizen Reporting System, scan the QR code included in this article or visit [www.ferndalepd.org](http://www.ferndalepd.org) and click on "File a Police Report Online."

Scan QR Code to be taken to Online Reporting System for the Ferndale Police Department

## DEPARTMENT ACCREDITED FOR HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Ferndale Police Department has successfully completed a rigorous accreditation program that certifies it is operating under best practices and standards for law enforcement. The program is administered by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and involves an eight-phase process over several months. It is a professional, objective, and demanding audit that examines best practices, accountability, organizational discipline, and performance.

"We are extremely proud to be accredited by WASPC," said Ferndale Chief of Police, Kevin Turner. "It means our department has achieved the highest professional standards for policing, to ensure and improve upon public trust."

Benefits of accreditation include administrative and operational effectiveness, fair recruitment and employment practices, better records management, improved use of technology, health and safety, training, codes of conduct and prisoner security, among other important law enforcement tasks.



Pictured left to right: Lt. Travis Card, Lt. Matt Huffman (retired November 2023), Chief Kevin Turner, and Lt. John VanderYacht at the WASPC Awards Banquet on November 8, 2023.

"The Ferndale Police Department has worked hard to obtain this achievement," said Steven Strahan, WASPC Executive Director. "The community should be proud of local law enforcement for taking direct and tangible steps to earn the public's confidence in their operations."

WASPC was founded in 1963 and represents executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members, it includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies.

For more information, please contact the City of Ferndale's Communications & Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at [meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org](mailto:meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org).



Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Awards Banquet on November 8, 2023. Pictured left to right: Lt. John VanderYacht, Lt. Travis Card, Lt. Matt Huffman (retired November 2023), Chief Kevin Turner, and WASPC President Sheriff Kevin Morris.

# WELCOMING 2024 ELECTED OFFICIALS

The City of Ferndale held its first council meeting of the year on January 2, 2024. The meeting began with City Clerk Susan Duncan swearing in new Councilmember McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez, and for their second terms, Mayor Greg Hansen and Councilmembers Herb Porter, Ali Hawkinson, and Erin Gunter.

The Ferndale City Council is the legislative and policy-making body of city government. Councilmembers are responsible for passing laws through ordinances and policies through resolutions, and approve the annual budget initially proposed by the mayor. Councilmembers are elected for four-year overlapping terms, with elections taking place every two years.



Mayor Hansen being sworn in by City Clerk Duncan at first City Council meeting of the year on January 2, 2024

Many of these individuals got their start by serving on City Boards and Commissions. For information on boards, commissions, and community involvement, please see "Get Involved!" on page 4. For a full list of Ferndale City Councilmembers and their contact information, along with Council Rules and Procedures, Council Committee assignments, and Council priorities, please visit: [www.cityofferndale.org/your-government/city-council/](http://www.cityofferndale.org/your-government/city-council/)



Pictured left to right: City Clerk Duncan swearing in Councilmembers Herb Porter, Ali Hawkinson, Erin Gunter, and McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez on January 2, 2024

# WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

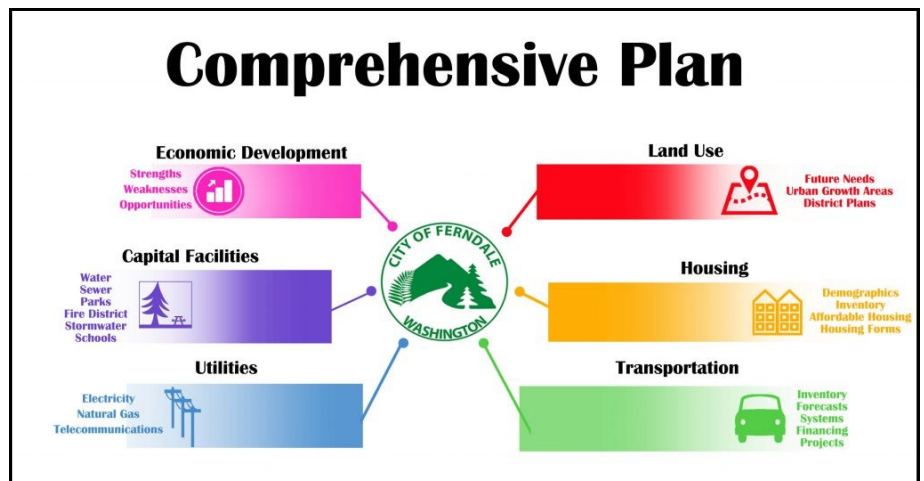
The State of Washington requires cities who plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to regularly update their comprehensive plans and development regulations. This process is called a "periodic update" and each jurisdiction is required to complete these updates every ten years. This process ensures that the City's comprehensive plan is coordinated with state laws and implements the Growth Management Act consistent with other cities in the state. The City of Ferndale is currently within a periodic update process and is expected to adopt revisions to the comprehensive plan and development code by June of 2025.

The comprehensive plan is often referred to as a living document for a community. Within the comprehensive plan a City (or County) articulates its vision for the future of the community. The comprehensive plan is a long term document focused on a 20 year timeline, known as the planning horizon. This vision is captured within the plan through the establishment of goals, objectives, and policies intended to guide the day-to-day decisions of elected officials and City staff.

For questions regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan, please contact Community Development Director Michael Cerbone at 360-685-2367 or [michaelcerbone@cityofferndale.org](mailto:michaelcerbone@cityofferndale.org).

The current City of Ferndale Comprehensive Plan can be found on the City's website: <https://www.cityofferndale.org/commdev/comprehensive-plan-2/>.

Have ideas for the City's next Comprehensive Plan update? Join the City for an Open House on March 20th, 2024. See page 4 for details.



# GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

## Attend a City Council Meeting

The City Council meets at 5:00 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month (unless it is a holiday, then Council will meet the Tuesday immediately after the Monday holiday). Meetings are held at the City Hall Annex, 5694 Second Avenue and live-streamed via Microsoft Teams. The public is encouraged to attend and there is an opportunity for public comment at each meeting. The link to the Council Meeting is posted to the City's website the Friday preceding each meeting.



Pictured left to right: Councilmembers Herb Porter, Ali Hawkinson, Erin Gunter, McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez, Ryan O'Larey, Robert Pinkley, and Jon Mutchler at the first Council Meeting of the year on Jan. 2, 2024.

## Attend a City Council Committee Meeting

The City Council Committees meet on the Wednesday before each City Council meeting from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the City Hall conference room at 2095 Main Street. These meetings are to review materials and either forward items to the full council or send them back to staff for further work. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Meeting links and agendas are available on the City's website at [www.cityoferndale.org](http://www.cityoferndale.org).

## Join a City Board or Commission

The City has a number of Boards and Commissions that work to advise the council on a broad array of subjects. These are volunteer positions but absolutely essential to providing quality input to the city decision making process.

### Ferndale Arts Commission



The Ferndale Arts Commission is charged with enhancing the community by advising on public art and community aesthetic enhancement.

### Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board



The Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board (PRTAB) assess the community's park and recreational facilities, programs, needs and costs, and provides recommendations to Council related to the updating of the City's Parks Master Plan.

### Planning Commission



The Planning Commission plays a vital role in City government by reviewing, conducting hearings where applicable, and making recommendations to Council on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Map and Shoreline Master Program.

### Equity Advisory Committee



The Equity Advisory Committee works to support the continued exploration of issues of equity and diversity to implement policy-based solutions throughout day-to-day and long-range planning.

For more information on serving on a City Board or Commission, including applications and Advisory Bodies Handbook, visit: [www.cityoferndale.org/your-government/boards-and-commissions/](http://www.cityoferndale.org/your-government/boards-and-commissions/)

# SAVE THE DATE!



The City of Ferndale will be hosting a Community Open House on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. This is your opportunity to speak with local elected officials, talk with City Staff about upcoming City projects, learn ways you can engage in your community, and hear from local community organizations.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**

**Pioneer Pavilion Community Center (2007 Cherry Street)**

For questions regarding the City's upcoming Open House, please contact Communications and Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at 360-685-2353 or [meganjuenemann@cityoferndale.org](mailto:meganjuenemann@cityoferndale.org).