

LIVING BY THE NOOKSACK

A Quarterly Newsletter from the City of Ferndale



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:

- 2024 Summer of Fun
- Ferndale Feature: Ferndale Advocacy in D.C. (page 2)
- Welcoming New Ferndale Police Officers
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- City of Ferndale Open House
- Planning and Development in the 100-Year Floodplain
- Metalworks Skatepark Groundbreaking

Please contact Communications & Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at:

360-685-2353 or
meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org

with any questions or comments about the City Newsletter.

This newsletter is accessible online at
www.cityofferndale.org/newsletter



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Presented by **WECU**

SUMMER OF FUN

Always Free! Open to the Public



The City of Ferndale is proud to announce a full slate of summer parks activities this year, including everything from acrobats to SpaceBand. Participants can enjoy movies, food, live music, and free activities in Ferndale's parks almost every weekend throughout the summer.

This year, Ferndale's parks events are made possible in part by the generous support of WECU, a local credit union serving Whatcom County for over 80 years.

"We have a lot of exciting things happening in our parks this year and I look forward to seeing everyone at these events," said Mayor Greg Hansen. "Once again, Ferndale has an incredible line up of free, family-friendly activities ready to go."



Food Truck Fridays: 2nd Friday of each month in Pioneer Village

June 14 - SpaceBand

July 12 - Bellingham Circus Guild

August 9 - Jim Buk Tu



Music in the Park: Live concerts on the Pioneer Village stage

Friday, July 19 - Baby Cakes

Saturday, August 17 - Lemon Creek



Flicks in the Park: Fridays in Pioneer Village

June 21, June 28, and July 12

August 23 inside Pioneer Pavilion with an earlier start time

More activities with dates to be announced soon, including Yoga in the Park, Wee Ones Nature Hunt, and Tie Dye Your T-Shirt.

As always, Ferndale parks events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Communications and Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org or (360) 685-2353.

FERNDALE FEATURE: FERNDALE ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON D.C.



Representative Rick Larsen and Mayor Greg Hansen meet during Ferndale's D.C. advocacy trip in March 2024.

Over the last several years, the federal government has created new funding programs and policies that have increased opportunities for local agencies to advocate for themselves and to receive direct funding for local projects and programs. Recognizing this, the City of Ferndale has expanded its advocacy in Washington D.C., and for the third year in a row, has received Federal appropriations in support of Ferndale projects.

After a successful trip to Washington D.C. in March, the City is proud to announce that it will be receiving an additional 1 million dollars in funding to support the City's Civic Campus project. "Our community has worked hard to invest in our future as a City, and this funding builds a bridge to that future. We are enormously grateful to Representative Rick Larsen for his support of the Civic Campus project," said Mayor Hansen.

The Civic Campus was one of nearly half a dozen City projects and initiatives that Mayor Hansen and City staff worked with elected and agency officials on.

While the City has enjoyed initial success, the City remains focused on a long-range strategy to secure funding for projects, many of which remain in the conceptual stage. By initiating discussions early and educating elected and agency officials of the importance of these projects, the City will be positioned to make strategic asks at the right time.

For questions or more information, contact Communications and Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org or (360) 685-2353.

To read more on Representative Larsen's 2024 Spending Package, visit www.larsen.house.gov/news

WELCOMING NEW FERNDALE POLICE OFFICERS



Chief Turner with Steve Gamage and wife at retirement celebration

This year, the Ferndale Police Department has welcomed four new police officers (Officers Hali Keller, James McDaniel, David Iglesias, and Cody Fields), two S.C.O.P.E. officers (Wes Gannaway and Mary Johnson), and two promotions to position of Sergeant (Sergeants Josh Scott and Kyle Olivarez). The City is proud to congratulate promotions and welcome our newest officers to the Ferndale Police Department!

The Department also celebrated the retirement of Officer Steve Gamage on March 7th. Officer Gamage had been an integral part of the Ferndale Police Department for 36 years and after a dedicated and successful career, Steve has decided to embark on a new chapter of his life. The City congratulates Steve Gamage on his well-deserved retirement.

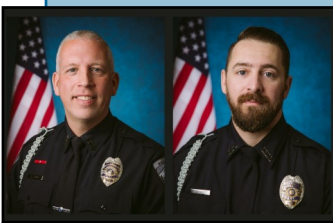
#StrongerCommunityTogether



Officer Hali Keller



Officer James McDaniel



Promotion of Sergeants Josh Scott and Kyle Olivarez



Officer Cody Fields



Officer David Iglesias



S.C.O.P.E. Officers Wes Gannaway and Mary Johnson sworn in on March 12

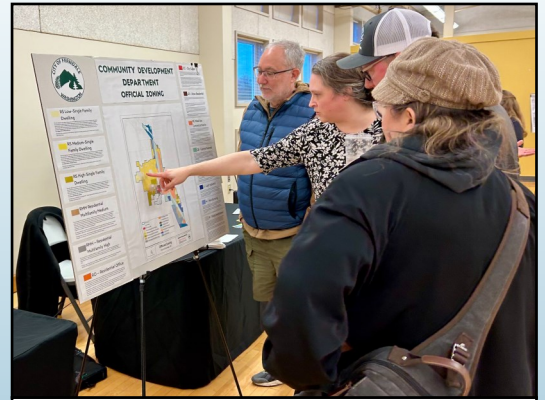
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The comprehensive plan process in Washington ensures that a city's plan is coordinated at the regional level, which for most areas in the state is accomplished through the establishment of countywide planning policies. Within Whatcom County, these policies are established collaboratively with all of the cities and then adopted into the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. Each city within the County then needs to ensure that their comprehensive plans are consistent with the countywide planning policies.

During the periodic update to the comprehensive plan, Whatcom County leads portions of the process by convening the cities to work collaboratively to establish countywide planning policies, growth projections, and facilitate decision about each city's urban growth area (UGA). The UGA is the area around each city that is supposed to contain a 20 year supply of land to meet the residential and employment needs of the community. The first step is for the Cities and County to agree on and adopt growth projections for housing and employment within the county. These growth projections are used to determine each community's needs for residential and employment land.

Once we know how much land we need to accommodate the 20 year planning horizon, we can then look at our UGA to determine if there is adequate land to accommodate the growth anticipated. If there is not enough land within the UGA, the City needs to look at either adding additional land to the UGA to accommodate growth, or look at our development regulations. The City of Ferndale is currently working with the County and other cities on growth projections. Please contact Michael Cerbone, Community Development Director at 360 585-2367 or michaelcerbone@cityofferndale.org with questions.

The current Comprehensive Plan can be found here: www.cityofferndale.org/commdev/comprehensive-plan-2/



City of Ferndale Open House on March 20, 2024

CITY OF FERNDALE OPEN HOUSE



Thank you to everyone who came out to the City of Ferndale's Open House on March 20th, 2024. Ferndale Residents had the opportunity to meet with local elected officials, talk with City staff about upcoming projects, learn ways to engage with the community, and hear from local community service organizations and groups.

The City appreciated the opportunity to interact with the public, answer questions, and share future plans for Ferndale. To stay updated on what's happening in the City of Opportunity, follow the City on social media, check the City website for updates, and read the quarterly newsletter for the latest Ferndale news.

For questions or more information, contact Communications and Community Relations Officer Megan Juenemann at meganjuenemann@cityofferndale.org or (360) 685-2353.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN



Much of the low-lying areas of Ferndale are within an area commonly known as the FEMA 100-Year Floodplain. This means that the area has a 1-percent chance of flooding from the Nooksack in any given year. Or, to put it another way, if you stood in that spot for a hundred years, chances are you would get wet at least once. So what does that mean for those building in the 100-year Floodplain? Would the City even grant a permit for that? The answer depends on what is being built and how.

Because the City is located next to a river that frequently floods, Ferndale has adopted a whole section of the City code specifically devoted to Floodplain Management (FMC 15.24). These regulations are fully compliant with the relevant FEMA regulations and are mandatory for anyone building in the 100-year floodplain. These rules do allow for some development within the floodplain, provided that such development is raised above the base flood elevation (i.e. how high the water will get above sea level when that big flood arrives) and/or is flood proofed.

There are several methods to meet this requirement, including raising the structure itself or even raising the elevation of the ground on which the structure sits. Additionally, any new development cannot reduce the effective flood storage volume of the floodplain. In other words, the applicant is required to demonstrate that new developments will not result in a net increase in the flood level that may impact neighboring properties. Should the development result in a net rise, compensatory storage or mitigation measures must be incorporated to result in no-net-rise in the floodplain, and therefore, no additional flooding impacts to adjacent property owners.

These requirements and methods are reviewed and verified through the City's permitting process. Only those projects that meet these requirements may be approved. FEMA also works with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to evaluate flood risks and to require flood insurance for those properties with government-backed mortgages within the 100-year floodplain. FEMA is responsible for preparing and distributing Flood Insurance Rate Maps which depict the assumed location of the 100-year floodplain at the local level, the various flood areas within the floodplain, and the base flood elevation. These maps are the basis for many of our permitting requirements. The floods of November 2021 put in stark relief the need to be cautious when building near the river and adhere to permit requirements.

Following the City code can assist property owners with mitigating the impacts that come from living in the 100-year floodplain. For more information or questions about the 100-year floodplain, please call Ferndale Community Development Department at 360-384-4006 or email Community Development Director Michael Cerbone at MichaelCerbone@cityofferndale.org.



Thank you to the community, City staff, elected officials, and project partners for coming out to celebrate the groundbreaking of Metalworks Skatepark on April 10th. The City is stoked to begin construction on this highly-anticipated project to create a space for community members of all ages and skate skill levels to connect in the heart of Downtown Ferndale.

Grand opening late Summer/early Fall 2024!