

# ARLINGTON UPDATE



OCTOBER 2022

## Message from the Mayor

As we head into the fourth quarter of the year, and with the holiday season about to begin, I reflect on how fast the year has gone. We have been busy at the City with lots of new planning and preparation for our next two-year budget cycle. My budget message is in this newsletter. I am proud to present City Council with a budget focused on public safety, infrastructure development, and fiscal constraint.



The high level of sales tax revenue from development in Arlington and other sales tax collections, combined with COVID impact funds, allows us to make some major investments in our city. We look forward to new and expanded road systems, two new park developments, and cyber security for city infrastructure and systems.

I am happy to report the great results of our mental health outreach pilot program, which you can read about inside this Update. Other good news is that we have increased police presence in Smokey Point. We have had a good year replenishing our police force with the hiring of 9 police officers, leaving just two unfilled positions that we hope to fill by the end of this year.

We are introducing new partnerships with Workforce Snohomish and the Arlington School District to create a pipeline of employees for the growing list of jobs in the city.

We are planning, as required by state law, an update to our Comprehensive Plan. The article in this newsletter will outline the process and the opportunity for you to give input on the planning.

What I am most excited about this quarter is the Hometown Holiday season. We are adding an ice skating rink to the wonderful Legion Park light display this year, and the carousel will also be returning. I hope you will meet me in Arlington to celebrate the holidays.

*- Mayor Barb Tolbert*

## Street Projects Address Congestion Relief and Preservation

The City and surrounding communities have experienced growth beyond our projections. We are heavily focused on infrastructure development and congestion relief in 2022 and moving forward.

The Transportation Benefit Program was approved by voters in 2013 for a 0.2 percent sales tax on services and items purchased inside the city. The funds collected were used to improve the streets within the city limits. We have 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.

The 10-year sales tax is expiring and 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.

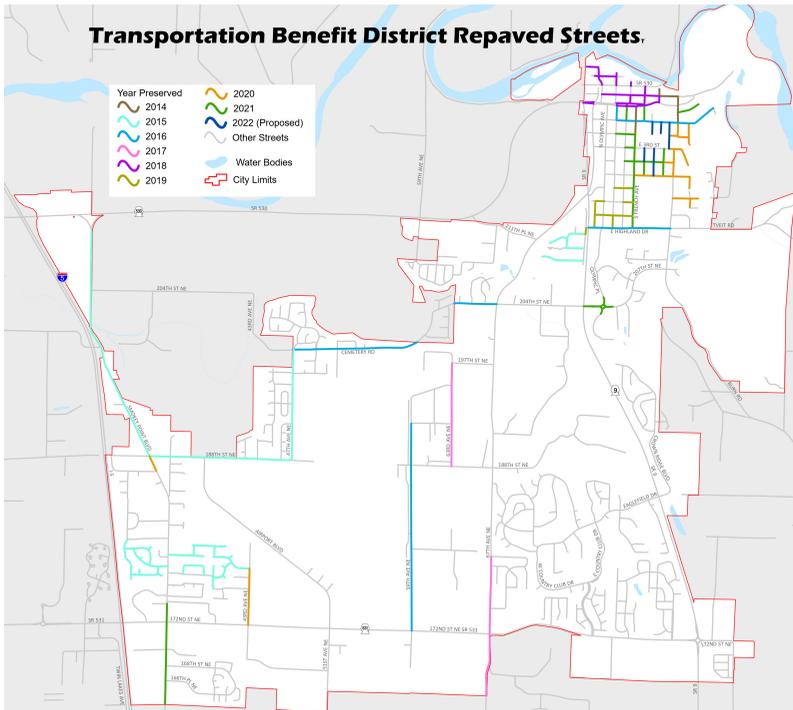
Please read more about the Transportation Benefit Program in the next page of this newsletter and be prepared to vote January 13 - February 14, 2023.

For more information, visit our website or email [info@arlingtonwa.gov](mailto:info@arlingtonwa.gov) or call the City Administration Office at 360-403-3441. [www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP)



# Transportation Benefit Program, Citizens to Vote in Jan./Feb. 2023

Visit our Webpage for Additional Information  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP)



To view the full scale map of streets that have been repaved, visit  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/TBP)



Traffic calming speed sign installed on 211th Street.



Sidewalk safety project in downtown.

**What can the Transportation Benefit Program (TBP) fund?** Improvements can include traffic congestion relief, traffic slowing/calming projects, sidewalk connections, crossings, street and road maintenance, and multi-use trails. Revenue also can be used as matching funds to access larger grants.

**How is the Transportation Benefit Program funded?** State law allows voters to approve a sales tax increase up to 0.3% for a period of 10 years; the tax may be extended for a period not exceeding ten years with approval from voters. In 2013, Arlington voters approved a sales tax increase of 0.2%, equivalent to two cents on a \$10 purchase. The TBP sales tax is expiring, and voters can extend the tax for another ten years.

**Why do we need to renew the Transportation Benefit Program?** In 2013, citizens realized that there was insufficient revenue from gas tax, sales tax, and other traditional “street revenue” sources to keep up with maintenance and improvements needed for the community’s transportation infrastructure. The citizens voted to approve the TBP. For the past ten years, the City has performed transportation maintenance projects needed to maintain a quality transportation system. However, our job is not complete. The City needs the revenue generated by the TBP to not only continue transportation maintenance projects, but to complete neighborhood traffic calming projects, transportation safety improvements, and capacity improvements.

**Who pays the Transportation Benefit Program tax?** The sales tax charge is shared by both residents and non-residents that use Arlington streets and purchase Arlington goods and services. For example, every \$100 spent in the City on taxable items, the sales tax would include 20 cents for TBP funding. Sales tax is not collected on food.

**What has been completed since voters approved the TBP?** When the TBP was passed by the voters in 2013, Arlington streets were in poor condition. The primary focus was to repair and preserve. Since 2013, the TBP has generated enough revenue to allow the City to restore 18.9 miles of city streets and replace 254 non-compliant sidewalk ramps.

**What projects will be funded the next 10 years?** Arlington residents have stated that safe streets are their highest concern. If the TBP is renewed, this will be a primary focus. City Council adopted a six-year Transportation Improvement Plan with \$350,000 obligated each year to neighborhood traffic calming improvements that will be funded by the renewed TBP. In addition to neighborhood traffic calming projects, the renewal will continue pavement preservation of streets, complete safety projects such as improved crosswalks, sidewalks and street lighting, and add transportation capacity improvement projects.

**Who gets to vote on the Transportation Benefit Program renewal?** Only residents that live within the city limits may vote on the renewal. City Council is asking residents to vote in Jan./Feb. 2023.

There are 11 cities in Snohomish County with Transportation Benefit programs: Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Lynnwood, Marysville, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Snohomish, and Stanwood.

# Comprehensive Plan Update

[www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024)

The City of Arlington is a growing community. We are planning for a vibrant and inclusive future that maintains what makes Arlington special. The document that guides the City of Arlington with goals, polices and standards is the City's Comprehensive Plan. The City is preparing the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, and will need citizen input to reflect the priorities and the vision of the community.

The plan is intended to 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 approximate population of 20,000 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. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update will consider this and plan for the next 20 years of population and employment growth through the year 2044.

City staff and the Planning Commission have started the process to revise the Comprehensive Plan with a new framework, updated foundational principles, goals and policies to address the City's future. This Comprehensive Plan will provide strategies to create equity across all aspects of life, including, place making, neighborhood connectivity, economic stability and vibrancy, resilience and sustainability, quality, diverse and efficient residential growth, and recreational/park opportunities. The focus will be the quality of life for the City of Arlington's residents and businesses.

**Timeline:** The process for updating the Arlington Comprehensive Plan will include four key stages of work and related public engagement:

- Review background and confirm vision (through the end of 2022)
- Develop policy framework and planning scenarios (end of 2022 through mid-2023)
- Compile draft Comprehensive Plan and complete environmental review (2023)
- Finalize and adopt the Comprehensive Plan (through third quarter of 2023)

## HOW TO BE INVOLVED:

During the Comprehensive Plan Update, the public is encouraged to provide input.

**Subscribe** to our weekly e-newsletters at:  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/443/Arlington-Update-Newsletter](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/443/Arlington-Update-Newsletter)

**Attend/Watch** Planning Commission Meetings  
[www.youtube.com/CityofArlingtonWashington](http://www.youtube.com/CityofArlingtonWashington)

**Complete** our Neighborhood Evolution Survey to provide information about your neighborhood. [www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024)

**View** project updates at: [www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/compplan2024)

**Contact us** at [info@arlingtonwa.gov](mailto:info@arlingtonwa.gov) or 360-403-3551.

## City Hosts Networking Event for Manufacturing Businesses with Focus on Workforce

In September, Mayor Barb Tolbert hosted a networking event to introduce Arlington's Cascade Industrial Center businesses to our new State Representatives after the State's re-districting process. Topics in each introduction included housing, supply chain, and workforce.

In attendance were Representative Greg Gilday, Representative Dave Paul, Senator Ron Muzzall, Representative Carolyn Eslick, and County Council member Nate Nehring.

Mayor Tolbert emphasized that it takes the government at the local level, regional and state levels to work together on issues, and businesses have a much stronger voice when they connect directly with legislators.

County Councilmember Nehring said, "I'm excited about the Cascade Industrial Center. This is an opportunity for jobs where people can live, work, and raise families here."

Workforce Snohomish County President, Joy Emory, spoke about creating a presence in Arlington to connect networks that will help increase the labor force available to our businesses. WSU Chancellor Paul Pitre, announced they are working on a satellite location in Arlington, and are investigating what programs are most compatible here.

Arlington School District is onboard with connecting students to employers and recently created a job board. Mayor Tolbert said, "We need meaningful life paths for young people as they build their future in Arlington."



# A Focus on Smokey Point District

## Police leadership meet with Smokey Point Businesses

After receiving an increasing amount of complaints from businesses and residents, Mayor Barb Tolbert met with Police Chief Jonathan Ventura and City Administrator Paul Ellis to see how the City could better focus on the Smokey Point area. They initiated a targeted enforcement plan using support available from City departments.

On September 27, Smokey Point businesses met with Police Lieutenant Mike Gilbert, Lieutenant Peter Barrett and the Outreach team, Officer Ken Thomas and Social Worker Heather Ekins. The City has heard the businesses' concerns about crime. There is data to back up the concerns, and the Police Department has a strategic plan for the Smokey Point district and will partner with the businesses for a better result.

With targeted enforcement in the area, law enforcement will deal with the people committing crimes, and the Outreach Team (social worker and police officer) can help the homeless or addicted people that will accept resources. The targeted enforcement is based on crime data – where higher volume of crime is located.

The plan has been implemented; businesses and the community will see outcomes as we move forward. You will see more police cars in the Smokey Point area. An interdepartmental City staff team is focusing on the goal of decreasing crime and homelessness in Smokey Point. Working together with code enforcement, city maintenance, the Mayor and legal, and businesses, should make an impact.

Businesses should expect to see more patrol and new staff on the roads within the next several months. The ability to respond may have been difficult in the recent past due to staffing limitations, but with new hires, the Smokey Point targeted plan will really take shape.

Recent State legislation has put roadblocks for dealing with crime issues, but the City is working on municipal code to take action inside the city; however, legal process takes time.

The City's Outreach Team has made great progress over the years, hundreds of people are off the streets. The City has eliminated large homeless camps, and are continuously looking for and helping the homeless. The City is committed to continuing the Outreach Team. Arlington Police work directly with Marysville Police and the State rest stops to prevent pushing issues back and forth through jurisdictions.

Tools to combat crime include the SODA order, or Stay Out of Designated Area, which forbids anyone charged with a drug crime to enter the area. Smokey Point is a designated SODA area.

Businesses are encouraged to have a Blanket Trespass Agreement with Arlington Police Department so they can act on their behalf if they are away from the business, but need to have a person removed.

Other important tools for businesses (and residents) to consider are video cameras, lighting, security doors, marking valuables and noting serial numbers, landscaping that eliminates concealment, and litter and graffiti removal. The Police are available to evaluate business properties for crime prevention.

Businesses should call 911 or the non-emergency police phone number to report all crimes and to start a record of the issues they are having. Businesses can contact Lieutenant Mike Gilbert at [mgilbert@arlingtonwa.gov](mailto:mgilbert@arlingtonwa.gov) or 360-403-3400.

## Smokey Point Planned & Upcoming Improvements

The Smokey Point Boulevard corridor is being studied for development as a transit oriented, mixed-use corridor. The City is currently designing and implementing improvements to Smokey Point Boulevard from 174th Pl. NE to 200th St. NE. and working on connector streets to alleviate traffic congestion. Visit [www.arlingtonwa.gov/PWprojects](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/PWprojects) and check out the Smokey Point Blvd. Corridor project renderings and maps.

These improvements will support future growth and help create a community corridor for small businesses and residents that is walkable and livable with safe pedestrian crossings, landscaping, improved access for drivers, transit users, pedestrians and bikers.

The City is purchasing 2 acres for a civic center (community park) on Smokey Point Boulevard, with supported funding from WA State Department of Commerce. This will be in development in 2023-2024.

To sign up for information notifications about the Smokey Point district, visit our website, [www.arlingtonwa.gov](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov) and click "Notify Me" and sign up for Smokey Point notifications.

*"When the community asks what they can do to help with these challenges, we continue to advocate and encourage them to contact their state legislators to request the reinstatement and amendment of our drug laws towards accountability while also making serious investments into mental health and drug treatment. At the local level, we encourage people to stop providing financial aid and direct assistance to those on the street. Instead, we suggest donating their time and money to organizations such as the Arlington Community Resource Center that provide sustainable services to the same population. " City Administrator Paul Ellis*

# City of Arlington 2023-2024 Budget

People depend on cities for essential services including parks, streets, utilities, and public safety. These main objectives and city services are reflected in the City of Arlington's budget. At the spring City Council retreat, the Council prioritized a public safety focus with all departments' budgets.

The biennial budget method used by the City of Arlington allows for two-year spending authorization. The City engages in long-term and strategic planning more effectively thanks to the biennial budget process. Department heads are in charge of creating budget proposals to align with Council priorities under the guidance of the Mayor and City Administrator. City Council adopts the final budget, but that decision is a reflection of the opinions of our citizens.

Public safety is a critical part of infrastructure that ensures a community remains vibrant and healthy. The City recognizes that public safety also constitutes a broad range of programs. While traditional policing is still vital to public safety, the City has taken a holistic approach to how it views public safety, as police officers alone are challenged to address all the aspects of what public safety entails.

This biennial budget includes a variety of initiatives that contribute to a well-rounded public safety program such as:

**Transportation:** \$30 million investment in transportation for roadways that move people safely and efficiently. Transportation is also crucial to effectively transport goods and to ensure households have access to employment, education and healthcare, both of which keeps the economy moving forward.

## Key transportation projects are:

- Island Crossing Roundabout
- 173rd Street Phase II
- 169th Street Segment
- Roundabouts at both 188th Street and 180th Street at Smokey Point Boulevard
- \$1.2 million for the improvement and maintenance of pedestrian systems such as trails and sidewalks, which are an important part of the transportation system to move people safely and efficiently alongside streets and connect neighborhoods and business districts.
- \$700,000 in traffic calming programs that will mitigate impacts of traffic flow through new and existing neighborhoods.

**Social Services:** \$770,000 in social service programs to connect individuals to services that may need assistance with housing, mental health or opioid treatment.

**Information Technology:** \$1.3 million investment in information technology infrastructure including; completing a fiber ring to limit external entry points into the city's IT backbone, cybersecurity training and monitoring programs to detect and prevent external threats, and ongoing updates to technology equipment and software systems.

**Police:** Hiring of two additional police officers.

**Maintenance & Operations:** Hiring of two maintenance and operations staff.

**Review the 2023-2024 Budget**  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/174/Budget](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/174/Budget)

The public has opportunity to comment on the City's 2023-2024 budget. On October 24 at 7:00 pm. the budget will be presented during the City Council Workshop. On November 7, during the City Council meeting, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a public hearing. Residents are welcome to attend or view on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/CityofArlingtonWashington](http://www.youtube.com/CityofArlingtonWashington).

## Public Safety Top Priority for City of Arlington

Mayor Tolbert is proud to join with Snohomish County police chiefs, mayors, sheriffs, and elected officials to encourage the Washington State legislature to make the necessary reforms to better support public safety in our communities. Our top priority is that police officers are supported and that citizens can have trust and reassurance that their community will be kept safe.

View the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPQrwAxxznA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPQrwAxxznA)



## Program Shows Success Reaching People with Mental Health Concerns

Arlington's Mobile Integrated Health program is midway through the 2-year State sponsored pilot project that was requested by Mayor Tolbert to help reach people struggling in our community. The team at Center for Justice Social Work (CJSW) is in place to assist people who may need extra support to find mental health services to get back on track. The teams meet people where they are, including those who have avoided previous offers of help.

The clients are typically referred to CJSW by Arlington Police or North County Fire Department after receiving multiple mental illness related 911 calls from the client or relatives. The team tries to identify the root cause of the problem and how they can support them by directing them to the appropriate services, while often talking with family members who can provide support and understand the process.

The program has succeeded in reducing the number of 911 calls and connecting people in need to services providers. CJSW has reported that since the program started a year ago, social workers have made contact with 500 people in need in Arlington.

## Programs to Assist with Utilities

### Low Income Senior Citizens and Low Income Disabled Program

The City of Arlington offers a 40% reduction in rates to qualified low income senior citizens and low income disabled customers for water, sewer, and stormwater services provided by the City. The program includes both homeowners and renters who live in a primary residence receiving an Arlington utility bill for service. [www.arlingtonwa.gov/211/Reduced-Utility-Rates](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/211/Reduced-Utility-Rates)

### Snohomish County Water Assistance Program

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills to restore and prevent disconnection of households water/wastewater services. [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/6062/WaterSewer-Assistance-Program](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/6062/WaterSewer-Assistance-Program)

### Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time per heating season assistance in paying the heat bill for eligible households. [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/552/Energy-Assistance](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/552/Energy-Assistance)

## Arlington Community Resource Center

Arlington Community Resource Center is a one-stop hub for services for people in need. From help with basic needs like food, clothing and shelter, to assistance with other kinds of resources and programs, they support people in their journey toward stability. Located at 3210 Smokey Point Drive #103, open Monday through Thursday. Phone: 360-322-6988

## Meet Me in Arlington *For the Holidays*

Have you visited the Meet me in Arlington online marketplace? With over 215 businesses and 335 products, shoppers can browse an assortment of products and services from Arlington businesses. This is a great way to check out what's trending in your favorite Arlington shops!

We have also curated itineraries, such as adventurous dates, foodie fanatics, family fun, biking and hiking, and blogs with more ideas on how to explore Arlington. We welcome your ideas for itineraries and blogs!

Email us at [info@arlingtonwa.gov](mailto:info@arlingtonwa.gov).

Businesses who are interested in being on the marketplace should contact Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce, email [svcc@stillyvalleychamber.com](mailto:svcc@stillyvalleychamber.com).

Follow **Meet me in Arlington** on Instagram and Facebook to view product and event videos!

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[www.facebook.com/meetmeinarlington](https://www.facebook.com/meetmeinarlington)  
[www.MeetmeinArlington.com](http://www.MeetmeinArlington.com)



## Pop-Up Shop Location Available

The City of Arlington is offering a pop-up business location for selected vendors to offer community residents a wider variety of local products and a place for new businesses to introduce products to the market. The pop-up location is the lobby at the Innovation Center at 404 N. Olympic Avenue. Visit [www.arlingtonwa.gov/lab](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/lab) for information.



# City Council Highlights



Heather Logan



Don Vanney



Debora Nelson



Michele Blythe



Marilyn Oertle



Yvonne  
Gallardo-Van Ornam



Jan Schuette

## October

Approved Changing City Council Meetings' Start Time to 6 p.m. starting Jan. 2023  
Purchased Land from Smokey Point Community Church for Community Park  
Approved Title 20 2022 Zoning Code Amendments  
Approved Agreement for Purchase of Patrol Vehicles  
Contracted for Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Control  
Awarded Potable Water Production Well Installation Project  
Approved Smokey Point Boulevard Corridor Preferred Design

## September

Adopted 2021 Sno. County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan  
Approved to Participate in the WA State Opioid Litigation Settlement  
Approved to Participate with Snohomish Health District for Naloxone  
Approved Agreement with City of Everett for Police Training Sessions  
Authorized City to Apply for Tourism Grant  
Approved Amendment for Construction Management Services with KBA, Inc. for the Smokey Point Blvd Overlay Project

## August

Waived Right of Way Permit Fees for the Fiber Installation Project  
Accepted Wetland Tract Associated with Project Roxy  
Adopted the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan  
Authorized Full-Time Employee for Development and Business Inspections  
Approved Purchase of Right of Way for 197th Place NE  
Appointed Gayle Roeber to Planning Commission  
Reviewed Council Remote Access Policy  
Accepted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant from the FAA

## July

Reviewed 2022 Municipal Code Amendments with Planning Commission Meeting  
Approved Purchase of Smartsheet Contract Management Software  
Approved Waiver of Land Use Fees for Fly-In  
Approved Vacation of Alleyway at Fifth Street  
Approved Purchase of 3D Laser Scanner for Police Department  
Awarded the 2022 Utility Improvement and Pavement Preservation Project to Reece Construction  
Accepted Grant of \$100,000 from Dept. of Commerce for Planning Work Related to Housing Action Plan  
Approved 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update Scope and Budget with Otak

## City Council Meetings

Workshops: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month at 7:00 p.m.  
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. beginning in January, 2023.

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

For current meeting information, go to: [www.arlingtonwa.gov](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov) calendar or agenda center.

## Boards and Commissions

Airport Commission: 2nd Tues. at 7 p.m.  
Cemetery Board: 3rd Tues. at 2:30 p.m.  
Civil Service Commission: 1st Wed. at 9 a.m.  
Park, Arts, Rec. Commission: 4th Tues. at 6 p.m.  
Planning Commission: 1st & 3rd Tues. at 7 p.m.  
Youth Council: 2nd Thurs. at 5:30 p.m.

## City Phone Numbers

Airport 360-403-3470  
Cemetery 360-403-3428  
Community & Economic Dev. 360-403-3551  
Finance Department 360-403-3421  
Human Resources 360-403-3443  
Mayor's Office 360-403-3441  
Recreation 360-403-3448  
Public Works Utilities 360-403-3526  
Street & Park Maintenance 360-403-3451  
Utility Billing 360-403-3421

## Meet City Councilmember Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam

Councilmember Gallardo-Van Ornam was appointed in June after being selected from 10 applicants who were interviewed by City Council for vacant position No. 6. Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam had been an Arlington Planning Commissioner since April, 2020.

"I am committed to serving with honor and a high level of professionalism. I will work hard to be the kind of councilmember the City of Arlington deserves and that will make my family proud," she said.



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**NOV. 26 HOLIDAY KICK-OFF / SHOP SMALL  
TREE LIGHTING, NIGHT OF LIGHTS, ICE SKATING  
DEC. 3 SANTA PARADE, CAROUSEL, ICE SKATING  
AND MORE ACTIVITIES THROUGH DECEMBER**