



Agenda
Economic Development Board Regular Meeting
March 20, 2026 | 7:30 AM

City Hall, Conference Room
10220 270th Street NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

Meeting information is posted on line at:
<https://www.stanwoodwa.org>.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comments**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Economic Development Board Minutes 01.16.2026
- 5. Unfinished Business**
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Stanwood Identity Discussion
 - b. Stanwood Regional Job Fair
- 7. Miscellaneous**
 - a. Depot Park Art Project
 - b. Creative Arts District & Mainstreet Program Update
 - c. Port Susan Trail Route and Wayfinding
 - d. Heritage Park Graffiti Art
 - e. January & February Business Licenses
- 8. Board Member Comments**
- 9. Adjourn**



**City of Stanwood
Economic Development Board
Staff Report**

Item Number: 4.a.
Date: March 20, 2026
Subject: Economic Development Board Minutes 01.16.2026
Contact Person: Aaron Weinberg, Business & Community Relations
Attachments: 1. Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes
2026.01.16

**City of Stanwood
Economic Development Board
January 16, 2026 | 7:30 AM**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Les Anderson called the Economic Development Board meeting to order at 7:35 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tobin Fekkes, Lacey Winslow, Les Anderson, Teresas LaFleur (online), Camrie Ingram, David Pelletier, Kristine Birkenkopf

Staff Present: Aaron Weinberg, Niki Strachila, Audrey Rotrock

3. Public Comments

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes 10/17/2025

The minutes of October 17, 2025, Economic Development Board were approved unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

a. Election of Officers

David Pelletier volunteered to be the Board Chair. Les Anderson made a motion to approve, Tobin Fekkes seconded. All were in favor.

Teresa Lefluer volunteered to be the Board Vice Chair. Lacey Winslow made a motion to approve, Tobin Fekkes seconded. All were in favor.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. New Member Introduction

Tobin Fekkes and Lacey Winslow, the newest Board members, gave brief introductions of themselves.

b. Goals & Priorities Discussion

The Board was asked to list the strengths and challenges of the City of Stanwood below. Staff will use this information to guide future EDB meetings.

Strengths:

Small town / historic charm

A strong downtown (eclectic, small shops, good food)

Rural nature
People & community
The City is growing, but there is still a feeling of connection
Access to activities (water/Hamilton Landing, nature, etc.)
No urban sprawl
Train station
Events

Challenges:

Need more family wage jobs
Capture more Camano residents passing through town
Missing a hotel/lodging
People have to leave town to go to bigger box stores
Need more affordable housing
No Performing Arts center
Nowhere to buy locally grown food (a co-op type)
Floodplain challenges
Lack of cohesion between east and west downtown
Main Street is not attractive between the two ends of downtown
Transportation

When asked about top goals for economic development – tied to the Economic Development Element of the comp plan – board members ranked the following three goals at top priorities:

Downtown revitalization
Pedestrian mobility
Business resiliency/diversification

c. Twin City Mile Update

Consider making turns off 270th Street onto 102nd Ave right turn only.
The Board also suggested making the overhead lights on the west end brighter.

d. Art Project Updates

The Board supports all Community Development art projects.

e. Business Climate Survey Results

Overall, businesses were positive or neutral about the business climate in Stanwood. Top support needs included marketing, downtown revitalization, improved foot traffic, and grant opportunities.

f. Business Licenses: July - December, 2025

No comments

g. Year-In-Review

No comments

8. Board Member Comments

9. Adjourn: 9:00



**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-155

DATE: March 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Stanwood Identity Discussion

CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

BACKGROUND

The City of Stanwood recently adopted its 2025 Strategic Plan, which identifies Economic Development as a key priority for the City. The Strategic Plan reflects extensive community input and establishes a vision for Stanwood as the commercial and cultural center of the greater Stanwood–Camano region, while preserving the community’s small-town character and quality of life. As the City works toward implementing this vision, it is important that advisory bodies such as the Economic Development Board (EDB) align their work with these broader strategic goals.

One of the most effective ways to guide economic development efforts is to begin with a clear understanding of what a community is and what it aspires to be. Communities that have a defined identity and economic niche are better able to focus policy decisions, infrastructure investments, marketing efforts, business recruitment, and partnerships. Without this clarity, economic development efforts can become fragmented, reactive, or overly focused on individual projects.

The “What is Stanwood?” discussion is intended to help the EDB continue to consider the larger economic identity of the community. Today’s conversation is designed to progress our discussions on economic development goals. By reflecting on Stanwood’s distinguishing characteristics, the Board can help articulate how the City fits within the broader region and what types of businesses, industries, and investments best align with its character and goals. It will also inform the City’s marketing efforts.

This exercise also supports the EDB’s role as a strategic advisory body. Rather than focusing on operational or project-level details, the Board can use this discussion to identify themes and priorities that guide future recommendations to City Council and

staff. The outcome of this conversation will help ensure that the Board's future work—whether related to downtown vitality, pedestrian mobility, economic diversification, or partnerships—is grounded in a shared understanding of Stanwood's identity and long-term economic vision.

SUMMARY

Today's major exercise will utilize what is called the Economic Identity Spectrum facilitation tool.

The Economic Identity Spectrum exercise is a facilitated discussion tool used by planning and economic development organizations to help communities clarify their identity, priorities, and direction. Rather than asking participants to choose a single label for their community, the exercise presents paired characteristics on a spectrum—for example:

- Small-town character ↔ Regional commercial center
- Residential community ↔ Employment center
- Local-serving businesses ↔ Visitor-oriented economy
- Quiet rural setting ↔ Active destination community

The Economic Identity Spectrum exercise is designed to help the Economic Development Board (EDB) explore and develop a shared understanding of Stanwood as a community as well as an economy. By examining where Stanwood falls along several spectrums—such as local-serving vs. visitor-oriented, residential vs. employment-focused, or quiet rural community vs. active destination—the Board can reflect on how Stanwood is perceived today and where economic development projects should lead.

This discussion extends beyond traditional economic development and considers the broader qualities that define Stanwood, including its small-town character, historic downtown, arts and cultural presence, natural environment, and strong sense of community. These elements are closely tied to economic outcomes because they influence why people choose to live, visit, invest, and start businesses in Stanwood.

Understanding these characteristics will help inform the City in marketing efforts.

By identifying where Stanwood currently sits—and where the community would like to be in the future—the Board can help clarify the City's economic niche within the region. This clarity can then guide policy discussions, infrastructure investments, partnerships, and marketing efforts.

Ultimately, the goal of the exercise is to develop a clearer and more cohesive understanding of **what Stanwood is as a place and what role it plays in the region.**

The themes and insights identified through this discussion will help inform the EDB's future work and recommendations, ensuring that economic development efforts support a consistent vision for Stanwood's community character, economic vitality, and long-term resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion Item.

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item.



**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-138
DATE: March 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Stanwood Regional Job Fair
CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the Board about the upcoming Stanwood Regional Job Fair, which the City of Stanwood is co-hosting with the Stanwood Commerce Alliance, WorkSource, and Workforce Snohomish.

A dark blue banner with large, bold, orange text that reads "JOB FAIR". Below the text, there is a paragraph in white text: "The Stanwood Regional Job Fair connects local employers and job seekers for an afternoon of networking, hiring opportunities, and community collaboration." At the bottom right of the banner, there is a line of text: "Priority access for Military Veterans from 2:30PM - 3:00pm" followed by five yellow stars and horizontal lines on either side.

JOB FAIR

The Stanwood Regional Job Fair connects local employers and job seekers for an afternoon of networking, hiring opportunities, and community collaboration.

Priority access for Military Veterans from 2:30PM - 3:00pm

BACKGROUND

The City of Stanwood has identified workforce attraction and retention as a key economic development priority based on feedback from a prior business survey and feedback from the Economic Development Board. Employers in Stanwood and the wider region have reported difficulty recruiting and retaining workers, particularly for small and locally owned businesses.

In response to these findings, the City has partnered with the Stanwood Commerce Alliance, WorkSource, and Workforce Snohomish to host the Stanwood Regional Job Fair. The Stanwood Commerce Alliance works to foster a positive business environment and promote economic vitality through networking, advocacy, and collaboration among local businesses. WorkSource and Workforce Snohomish address workforce needs in the region.

The job fair will take place on May 11, 2026, from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Stanwood High School Commons. The event will bring together employers and job seekers from across Snohomish County and the broader North Sound region.

The timing of the event is intentional. By hosting the fair at the end of the school day, students will have an opportunity to attend and connect with employers regarding summer employment opportunities and potential career paths. And by hosting it on a Monday, more small businesses can attend since many are closed Mondays.

ANALYSIS

The Stanwood Regional Job Fair is designed to support local businesses while connecting residents and students with employment opportunities in the region.

The event will provide several benefits to the community and local economy:

- **Support for Local Businesses:** Small businesses are a focus of the event. Participation will be free for local businesses with fewer than 10 employees, helping remove financial barriers to recruiting new staff.
- **Regional Employer Participation:** Larger employers from across Snohomish County and surrounding areas are encouraged to attend, giving job seekers exposure to a wide range of industries and career paths.
- **Student Workforce Opportunities:** Because the event occurs immediately after the school day, high school students will be able to attend and explore summer job opportunities, internships, and career pathways.
- **Workforce Development:** The job fair provides a direct opportunity for employers and job seekers to meet face-to-face, helping address workforce shortages identified through the City's earlier survey.
- **Economic Vitality:** By supporting workforce connections and local hiring, the event contributes to a stronger local economy and improved workforce retention in the Stanwood area.

The City's role in co-hosting the event demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing workforce challenges identified by the community and supporting both residents and businesses.

The City is "incubating" the job fair program, providing project management oversight to the Stanwood Commerce Alliance so it can take over future events, with lower support from the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends continued support and promotion of the Stanwood Regional Job Fair as an economic development initiative that addresses workforce attraction and retention priorities while strengthening connections between local employers, students, and regional job seekers.

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item.

Presented by: _____



STANWOOD REGIONAL JOB FAIR

STANWOOD
COMMERCE ALLIANCE

The Stanwood Regional Job Fair connects local employers and job seekers for an afternoon of networking, hiring opportunities, and community collaboration.



Monday
May 11, 2026



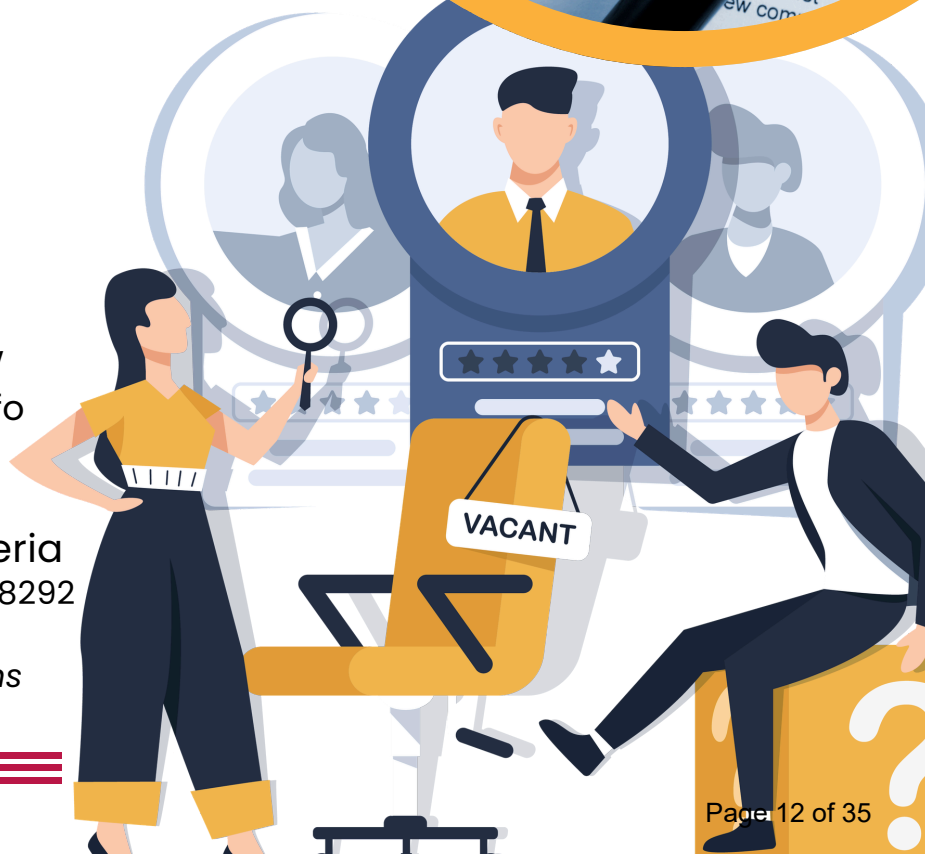
TIME
2:30PM - 5:30PM

Employer Reminders:

- Bring job descriptions
- Bring business cards
- Prepare a company overview
- Collect candidate contact info

Location:
Stanwood High School Cafeteria
7400 272nd St NW, Stanwood, WA 98292

Priority access for Military Veterans
from 2:30PM - 3:00pm





**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-137
DATE: March 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Depot Park Art Project
CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is for Board review of the Depot Park Art selection recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The City of Stanwood purchased a 0.11-acre parcel on the eastern edge of Stanwood's main street business district near the Amtrak train station for an urban business district park and entry point for visitors arriving by train.



The City acquired the downtown park site as part of the Twin City Mile Downtown Revitalization Project, envisioning the creation of an urban, hard-surfaced park that would serve as a welcoming space for shoppers and visitors to pause, relax, and enjoy their surroundings.

City Council approved the park’s concept plan on June 7, 2024, and allocated funding for the final design and construction in the 2025–2026 budget. Key elements of the park include:

- A combination of covered and open seating areas for relaxation and socializing;
- A multi-purpose shelter that can function as a picnic area, performance stage, or event space;
- A signature art feature;
- Wayfinding signage; and
- Dedicated space for the holiday tree.

The overall intent of the project is to establish a vibrant and welcoming downtown space that supports and complements the business district and provides a functional community gathering space. A key feature of Depot Park will be the inclusion of a public art piece designed to complement and enhance the urban park concept described herein.

ANALYSIS

In partnership with the Stanwood-Camano Arts Advocacy Commission, a call for art was issued for the Depot Park Art Project. The Call was open from late November through February 6, 2026. Seventeen submittals were received and reviewed by a panel consisting of seven members representing local artist, business owners, SCAAC members, and the Mayor.

Review Panel:

- Lin McJunkin
- Nate Greenland
- Jason Dorsey (Moderator)
- Rose Olson
- Vivian Henderson
- Elizabeth Boorne
- Mayor Sid Roberts

The call for art required the submitted design honor and celebrate the spirit of Stanwood by reflecting themes connecting to the city’s history, rural roots, and cultural heritage. Artists were encouraged to explore interpretations that acknowledge Stanwood’s agricultural traditions, its close relationship with the natural environment, and its historic Norwegian influences. The artwork should convey a strong sense of place and be family friendly, recognizing the city’s past while complementing its vision for a vibrant and welcoming downtown.

Artists or artist teams were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence and originality – Demonstrated ability to create visually compelling, conceptually strong, and contextually relevant artwork.
- Relevance to theme – How well the proposed concept reflects Stanwood’s history, rural roots, cultural heritage, and community identity.

- Quality and durability of materials – Suitability of materials for long-term outdoor display, safety, and minimal maintenance.
- Integration with site – Compatibility of the design with Depot Park’s layout, aesthetics, and pedestrian flow.
- Community connection – Potential of the artwork to engage, inspire, and resonate with residents and visitors.
- Interaction – Opportunity for the community to interact with the artwork, explore, touch, and experience it, up close.
- Professional experience – Past success with similar public art projects, including ability to meet budgets, timelines, and technical requirements.



The review panel shortlisted proposals from four of the 17 artists. The top-ranked submission was “Many Small Streams” by Sheila Wagner of Stanwood.

From the artist: “Many Small Streams” is a freestanding stainless steel archway that serves as a radiant sun-river gateway at the southwest corner of Depot Park. Positioned diagonally, it faces both the Amtrak station and the park interior (northeast), creating a welcoming landmark and sense of arrival.

The design celebrates Stanwood’s Norwegian heritage, agricultural roots, and intimate bond with the Stillaguamish River through layered symbolism: merging streams, rosemaling motifs, snow geese migration, and subtle crop icons.

A small ground mosaic under the arch anchors the Norwegian proverb, “Mange bekker små gjør en stor å” translated to, “Many small streams make a large river,” inviting visitors to step into the story of resilience, unity, and renewal.

The arch (18–20 feet wide by 10–12 feet high) features polished stainless steel wave crescents at the top, evoking river flow and sun-wheel symbolism. Spaces between the waves are filled with UV-resistant tinted acrylic panels printed with custom designs: flowing Stillaguamish waves, snow geese flocking upward, Norwegian rosemaling scrolls, and agricultural elements (berries, pea pods, vines) emerging from water.

The panels allow light transmission with color play, creating luminous, shifting patterns throughout the day similar to a river’s glow or sparkle. The archway evokes transition, duality, and cultural blending, with light filtering through for an immersive experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Informational update only.

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item



**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-141
DATE: March 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Creative Arts District & Mainstreet Program Update
CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

BACKGROUND

For decades, the City of Stanwood has been laying the groundwork for a vibrant and thriving downtown corridor. This long-term vision has been shaped through multiple community-driven planning efforts, beginning with the 2003 Design Stanwood Plan, followed by the 2012 Stanwood/Camano Destiny by Design Study, the 2015 Economic Development Plan, the 2020 City Beautification Plan, and most recently the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Each of these plans reinforced the community’s desire for a revitalized, attractive, and culturally rich downtown core.

As part of the 2025–2026 budget and work plan, the City formally launched the Downtown Initiative, an effort aimed at implementing these Plans. A committee, called the **Downtown District Initiative Advisory Committee**, was assembled consisting of local business owners, artists, the historical society and a Council representative. Their initial task was to determine if there exists sufficient interest in the local community to support a Creative District, Historic Preservation Program, and Main Street Program.

To support this effort, the City hired Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA), a consultant team experienced in community development, facilitation, and strategic planning. MFA assisted in guiding discussions, helping the Committee prioritize objectives, and outlining a structured and achievable path forward.

Throughout 2025, the DDIAC met four times to discuss how, or if, any of these programs would benefit Stanwood and its business community. The Committee began by reviewing the distinctions between a Creative District and a Historic District. Through this initial assessment, the Committee concluded that while the two programs

complement and reinforce one another, they are fundamentally separate entities with unique purposes, structures, and operational needs. Each program supports cultural identity, economic vitality, and placemaking, but they do so through different frameworks. Creative Districts are typically initiated and managed by a local nonprofit or community-based organization that focuses on arts, culture, and creative industry development.

In contrast, historic preservation programs are generally administered by local government, as they involve regulatory components, formal designation processes, and integration with planning functions. For these reasons, the Committee determined that the two programs should not be combined under a single management structure. City staff have now begun to pursue historic preservation as a separate yet complimentary initiative.

Following that evaluation, the Committee then compared the characteristics of Creative Districts and Main Street Districts. While distinct in focus, the Committee found that both programs offer substantial benefits to Stanwood’s long-term economic development goals. As a result, the Committee concluded that pursuing both a Creative District and a Main Street Program would provide complementary and mutually reinforcing benefits for the City.

PROGRAM DIFFERENCES

| Difference | Creative District | Main Street |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Focus | Art, culture, music, theater, etc. | Historic preservation , comprehensive downtown vitality |
| Time to Certification | ~2 years | ~4 years |
| Administrator | Part-time FTE at City or relevant (new or existing) nonprofit | Dedicated (new) nonprofit, with full-time Executive Director |
| Maintenance Labor | Part-time job (10-15 hours/week) | Full-time job (40+ hours/week) |
| Minimum annual budget | \$20k (for certification) | \$75-\$100k+* (for certification) |
| Unique Funding Sources | \$10k startup grant, eligibility for \$50k in small capital project grants | B&O tax credit incentive program |

- Creative District, with the future Meyer Art Center as the anchor organization, would create a renewed sense of place and vitality in the West End.
- A Main Street Program would strengthen the Twin City Mile by providing additional funding mechanisms and resources for all of downtown Stanwood, from the east end by the train tracks to the west end by City Hall Park.

A historic preservation program, in partnership with the Historical Society, would benefit citywide by preserving and documenting its past for future generations.

SUMMARY

Following \$25,000 in renewed funding and a new contract with the consultant team to lead facilitation, the Downtown District Initiative Advisory Committee met for the first time in 2026 on March 11 to prioritize program pursuit. The three options were to 1) prioritize pursuing the Creative District, 2) prioritize pursuing the Main Street Program, or 3) prioritize pursuing both. The strengths and weaknesses for each option were simple: prioritizing one program over the other would, naturally, delay the other.

The Committee made a nearly unanimous decision to prioritize the Creative District. It was noted that progress could still be made concurrently to form a Main Street Program, though not as quickly. Overall, the committee voiced that the Creative District would produce the greatest impact in a shorter timeframe, focusing on West downtown, an area that has historically had slower growth than East downtown. The Creative Arts District's timeline would be quicker to form (2 years versus 4 years for a Main Street designation) and would align well with construction of the proposed Meyer Arts Center.

Establishing a Creative District will formalize and promote Stanwood's growing arts, culture, and heritage sectors. Benefits include:

Increased visibility and branding for downtown arts and cultural assets

- Eligibility for Creative District capital and program grants
- Implementation of cultural, arts and tourism goals and policies
- Opportunities for public art, placemaking, events, and creative industry development

Benefits of forming the Creative District are below.

1. Economic development and job growth

A major goal of Washington's Creative District program is to use the arts as an economic driver. Districts concentrate artists, cultural venues, and creative businesses in one walkable area, which can stimulate local economic activity.

Cities often use creative districts to redevelop downtown areas or strengthen existing commercial corridors.

2. Tourism and visitor spending

Creative districts attract visitors looking for cultural experiences—art walks, performances, festivals, galleries, and restaurants.

Some Washington cities have even received highway signage and marketing support through the program to boost visibility.

3. State recognition, funding, and technical support

State-certified districts gain access to several resources from ArtsWA. These may include:

- Competitive grant funding
- Technical assistance and planning tools
- Networking and partnerships with other creative districts
- Promotional support and branding resources

4. Stronger community identity and placemaking

Creative districts help define and promote a community's cultural identity and sense of place. They often highlight local history, culture, and creative talent; improve public spaces and walkability, encourage community gathering and social interaction; build civic pride and local engagement

This kind of placemaking can make an area more attractive for residents, businesses, and investors.

Governance

Creative districts are typically managed through partnerships rather than a single organization. Many are led by nonprofit organizations, such as arts councils or creative district nonprofits, which handle programming, marketing, artist engagement, and grant management. These nonprofits are usually governed by a board that includes artists, business owners, community members, and city representatives.

Some districts are managed directly by city government, often through departments like economic development, planning, or cultural affairs. In this model, the city coordinates planning, public art initiatives, and district promotion while working with advisory groups made up of local artists and businesses.

A common approach is a hybrid partnership, where the city, nonprofit arts organizations, and business groups share responsibilities. The city may provide policy support and funding, while nonprofits lead programming and community engagement. Most districts also have a steering committee or advisory board to guide strategy and ensure the district reflects the community's cultural and economic goals.

Historic Preservation Program:

The City is also separately pursuing the Historic Preservation Program, having secured

\$20,000 in 2026 to do a historic building inventory. Staff are working on selecting a contractor to perform this work. Benefits of this program include:

- Protect Stanwood’s historic buildings and cultural heritage
- Strengthen community identity and sense of place
- Implement historic preservation goals and policies
- Provide eligibility for tax incentives and grant funding

If the City achieves Certified Local Government (CLG) status, it becomes eligible for a variety of state and federal grants specifically reserved for CLGs. These funds can be used to support historic building surveys and inventories, develop design guidelines, create educational materials and promotional brochures, and similar preservation-related projects.

Combined, these programs offer a cohesive strategy to enhance downtown Stanwood, strengthen the local economy, promote tourism, and support the City Beautification and Twin City Mile projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Creative District:

To successfully establish both the Creative District, continued City support during the initial development stage will be essential. At this time, the local business community is not yet sufficiently organized or resourced to independently manage this program or fund nonprofit leadership roles. The City will need to assume a leadership role to guide program creation, coordinate stakeholders, and build the community capacity necessary to successfully launch this program.

In some communities, the Creative District is operated by the City with support from an advisory board. Stanwood may initially need to follow a similar path until a strong nonprofit partner or business-led organization is established to assume program operations. Following its work with the consultant team facilitating the DDIAC meetings, City staff will begin fully managing facilitation of this group to continue to move it forward. This will include further committee meeting, potentially forming a new committee, site visits local Creative Arts Districts, developing “champions” within the community to build momentum and awareness of the program, coordinating with SCAAC’s Meyer Arts Center, and more.

Historic Preservation Program:

Establishing a Historic Preservation Program in Stanwood and pursuing Certified Local Government (CLG) status through the Washington State Department of Archaeology

and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will require staff time. Initial costs will primarily involve staff efforts to research program requirements, develop the necessary preservation ordinance and procedures, and coordinating with DAHP to prepare the City's CLG application. This work includes evaluating existing historic resources, drafting program documents, and facilitating public and stakeholder engagement, all of which represent a meaningful but manageable commitment of staff capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Informational update only.

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item



**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-139
DATE: March 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Port Susan Trail Route and Wayfinding
CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is for Board review of the Port Susan Trail Route and Historic Points of Interest Map project.

BACKGROUND

The City completed Phase 2 of the Port Susan Trail in 2025, delivering a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail that has quickly become a popular walking route for the community. Since its completion, the trail has experienced consistent use, with community members frequently inquiring about the timing of the next phase of implementation.

The original long-term alignment of the Port Susan Trail was envisioned to follow State Route 532, continue north through agricultural fields beneath the PUD power transmission lines, connect along Lovers Road, and loop back to the Park and Ride lot off Florence Road. This alignment was intended to provide an off-street, continuous trail corridor.

Due to concerns expressed by adjacent farmers regarding public access near active agricultural fields, the original trail alignment is no longer feasible and requires reconsideration. As a result, the previously planned route is no longer considered viable.

In response, the City is proposing a revised alignment through the downtown area that utilizes existing sidewalk infrastructure. This approach maintains pedestrian connectivity, improves access to local businesses and services, and allows the trail system to continue expanding in a cost-effective and implementable manner.

ANALYSIS

As part of the 2026 Work Plan, staff proposes to update the alignment of the Port Susan Trail within the downtown area by utilizing the existing sidewalk infrastructure, allowing the City to extend the trail system without the need for new right-of-way acquisition or significant capital construction.

Using existing sidewalks provides a cost-effective and timely approach while maintaining pedestrian connectivity and accessibility. This alignment also enhances integration with downtown destinations, including historic sites, local businesses, and Heritage Park.

To clearly define the trail route, staff proposes the installation of pedestrian wayfinding markers along the alignment. In addition, historic interpretive signage would be placed at key buildings and locations to highlight the community's history and cultural resources. This approach transforms the trail into both a recreational and educational asset, strengthening community identity and encouraging downtown visitation.

Port Susan Trail Map:

The proposed Port Susan Trail realignment includes a double-loop trail system designed to improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the downtown area and adjacent destinations. The alignment consists of the following segments:

- Lower Loop: Approximately three miles in length, connecting Main Street (270th and 271st Streets) with the existing Port Susan Trail.
- Upper Loop: Provides a connection to and through Heritage Park, enhancing access to recreational and cultural amenities. The full upper loop is about a mile and a half.
- Future Connection: A planned extension located behind the County Store, continuing along the train station, and connecting to the Park and Ride lot on Florence Road to support future trail expansion.

Other locations highlighted on the map include public parking lots, historic points of interest, and potential trail extensions.



Wayfinding Signage and Markers:

To clearly identify the Port Susan Trail and support visitors and pedestrians in navigating the designated route, staff are exploring a coordinated system of wayfinding signage and thematic trail markers. Visual examples under consideration include milepost decals, snow goose footprint markers to subtly guide users along the path, painted directional arrows, and other complementary design elements that help define the trail corridor.

Together, these elements would establish a cohesive and recognizable trail identity, serving both functional and aesthetic purposes. The proposed wayfinding features are intended to improve navigation, reinforce the continuity of the trail, and enhance the overall user experience. This approach is consistent with the City's ongoing beautification efforts and builds upon Stanwood's established community branding, creating a welcoming, distinctive, and memorable trail environment for residents and visitors alike.

Decals and Markers: Shown below are example concepts for decals and/or markers designed to assist users in following the Port Susan Trail route. These markers would be installed throughout the trail corridor.



Milepost Signage and Directional Arrows: Staff are also exploring the use of painted or decal milepost markers and directional arrows along the trail to enhance navigation and further establish a cohesive identity for the trail.

Interpretive Signs:

Staff also propose the installation of historic interpretive signs at key locations along the Port Susan Trail route. These signs would highlight the area’s historical significance and provide educational opportunities for trail users. Interpretive signage may include information on local history, early settlement, or tribal heritage. Staff will work with the Historical Society on specific locations and details.

The interpretive signs are intended to encourage exploration, foster a sense of place, and strengthen community connection to Stanwood’s history. This effort supports the City’s goals for historic preservation, public education, and trail enhancement, while complementing broader city beautification goals.

Examples of Interpretive Signage:



RECOMMENDATIONS

Informational item only.

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item

Proposed Points of Interest

Port Susan Trail and Heritage Park Loop Trails



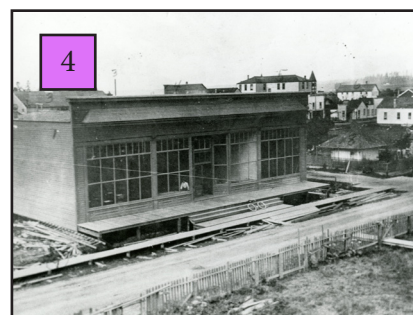
1
Joergenson farm and agriculture history



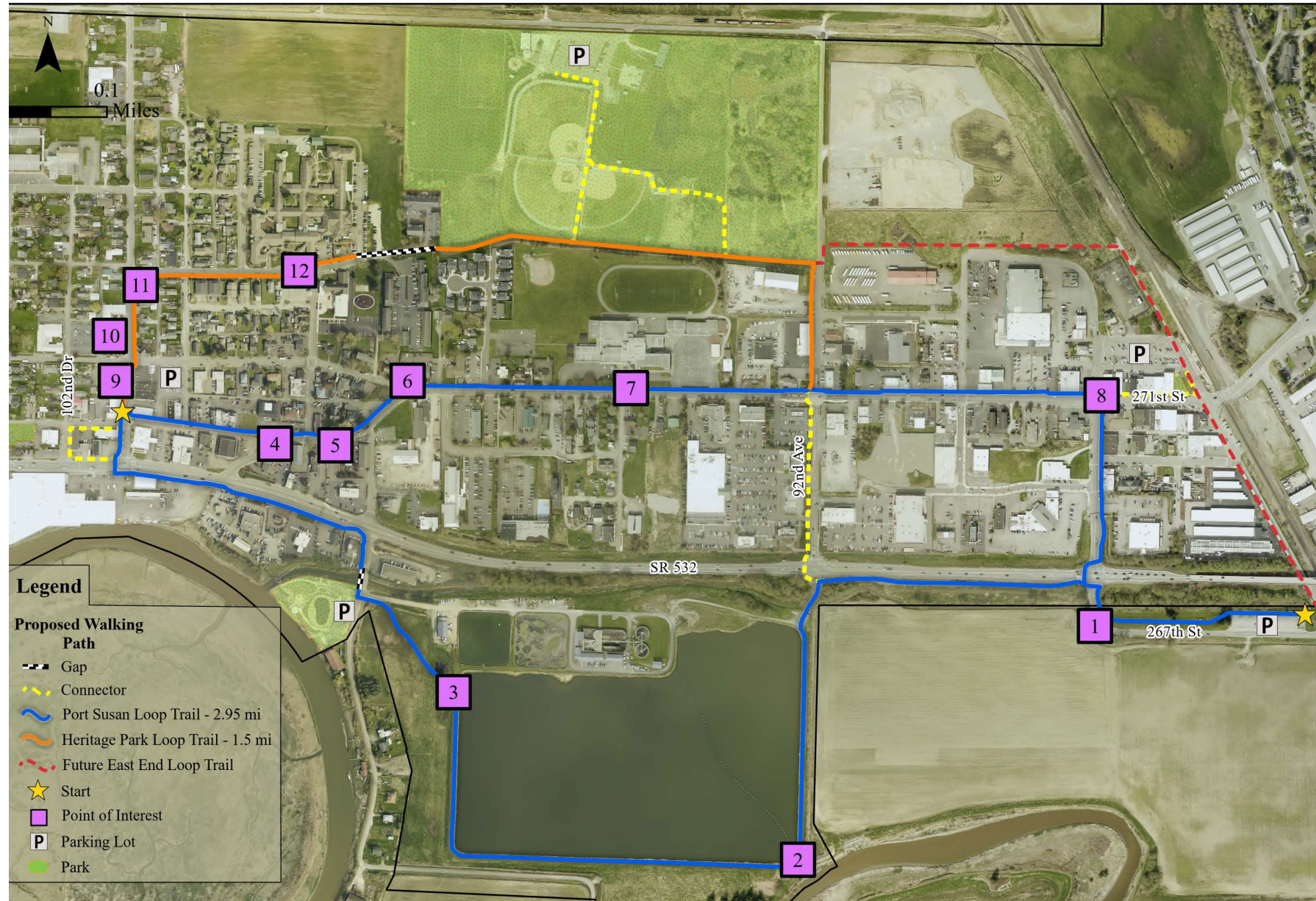
2
History of surrounding wetlands



3
Irvine Slough redirected to benefit commerce



4
Upcoming Arts Center



12
SAAL historic volunteer fire station



11
Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center



10
Stanwood Historical Society



5
Sons of Norway Fritjov



6
Raplee property



7
Union High School



8
First National Bank (Police station)



9
Stanwood Racetrack



**CITY OF STANWOOD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 2026-140
DATE: March 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Heritage Park Graffiti Art
CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is provide an update on the Heritage Park Graffiti Art project

BACKGROUND



The Heritage Park Skate Park is a community-focused recreational facility designed to serve youth, families, and visitors of all ages. The Skatepark features a series of steel ramps and skating elements arranged to support a variety of skill levels, from beginner to advanced users. The ramps are constructed of durable steel surfaces with a black

powder-coated finish and include large, exposed vertical side panels that are highly visible from within the park and surrounding areas.

These exposed ramp surfaces have historically attracted graffiti tagging due to their size, visibility, and blank appearance. While Public Works crews regularly remove or paint over graffiti, the recurring nature of the tagging has resulted in ongoing maintenance demands and has detracted from the overall appearance of Heritage Park.

Because of its visibility and frequent use, improvements made to the Skatepark will have a significant impact on the park's overall character. Incorporating intentional, graffiti-style mural artwork onto the ramp surfaces will enhance the park, tie into the City's ongoing beautification efforts, and deter vandalism while providing an opportunity for local youths to express their creativity and leave a lasting mark on the community.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SCAAC will serve as project manager for the Heritage Park Skatepark Graffiti Art Project. The project consists of the design and installation of graffiti-style mural artwork on exposed steel side surfaces of the Skatepark ramps at Heritage Park. The designs will be created by students at Stanwood High School and potentially Stanwood Middle School in collaboration with Stanwood-Camano School District Staff.

SCAAC will work with a professional artist to host workshops with students to create the art in collaboration with the art teachers. After the final art designs are approved by City staff, the artist will “sketch” the designs onto the surfaces before the artist and students do the final painting in mid to late June 2026.

BUDGET

The total all-inclusive budget for the Heritage Park Art Project is \$15,000. This budget is intended to cover all costs associated with planning, design, materials, installation, and long-term protection of the murals. Anticipated expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Artist stipends or honoraria for participating local artists and students
- Supplies and materials, including exterior-grade paints, primers, sealants, and safety equipment
- Surface preparation and site setup
- Application of a protective anti-graffiti coating
- Project coordination and oversight through the Stanwood Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC)
- Minor contingency costs to address unforeseen needs during installation

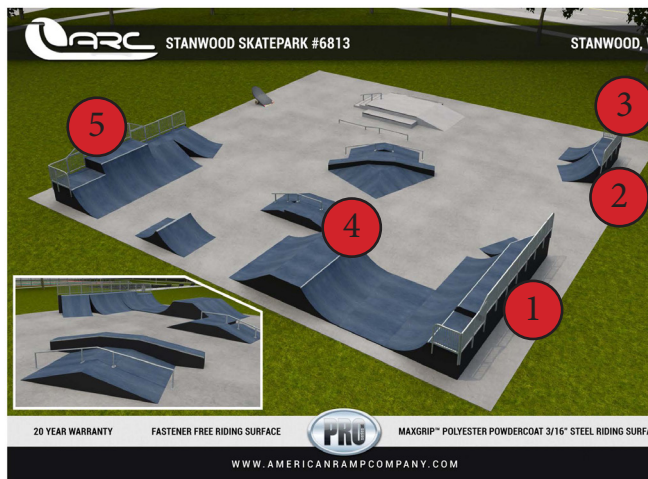
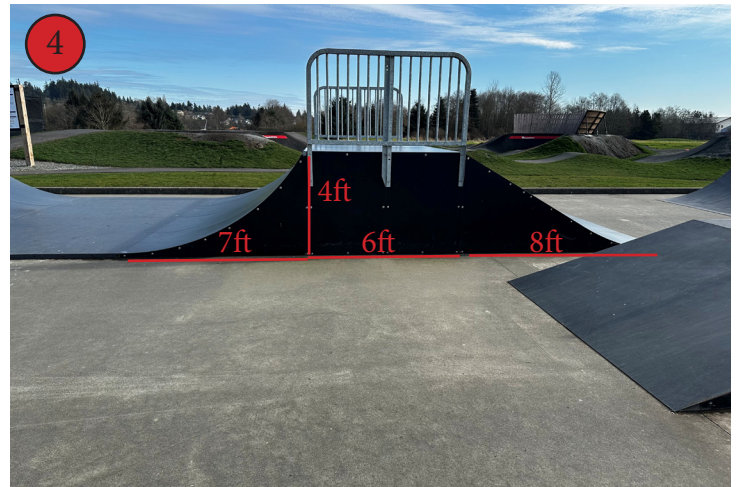
By leveraging partnerships with local schools and community artists, the project aims to deliver a high-impact public art installation within a modest, cost-effective budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None; Discussion Item

PROPOSED MOTION

None; Discussion Item



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**City of Stanwood
Economic Development Board
Staff Report**

Item Number: 7.e.
Date: March 20, 2026
Subject: January & February Business Licenses
Contact Person: Audrey Rotrock, Associate Planner
Attachments: 1. Jan & Feb 2026 Business Licenses

January - February, 2026 Business Licenses

| City Businesses | Doing Business As | Business Description | Location | Number of Employees | Status |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| City Business | MAMAS LASH LOUNGE LLC | Esthetician. | 8702 271ST ST NW OFC | 1 | Approved |
| City Business | **ABUNDANT GRACE ADULT FAMILY HOME | Adult Family Home. RESIDENTIAL LONG TERM CARE | 7402 281ST PL NW | 2 | Approved |
| City Business | SOLACE 1ST AFH LLC | Adult Family Home. | 28101 73RD AVE NW | 2 | Approved |
| City Business | POOCHIE STUDIO | PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES AND RETAIL SALES OF FINISHED ARTWORK LIKE PRINTS AND ALBUMS. | 9923 270TH ST NW STE 105 | 1 | Approved |
| City Business | NIGHT WERKS ARMAMENT CO LLC | Gun Sales, Gun Accessory Sales. | 9026 272ND ST NW | 1 | Approved |
| City Business | DIAMOND TEETH WHITENING | TEETH WHITENING(NOT DENTIST) | 7202 267TH ST NW STE 104B | 1 | Approved |
| City Business | A HEARTFELT CARE AFH LLC | taking care of elders and people with disability | 8200 HENNINGS DR | 2 | Processing |
| City Business | LANGABEER MCKERNAN BURNETT | Accountant, Accounting, Tax Preparer, Tax Services, Business Consulting. | 9106 271ST ST NW STE 2 | 7 | Approved |
| City Business | LUCIANNA'S GARDEN | All Other General Merchandise Retailers. | 8700 271ST ST NW # 8700 | 1 | Approved |
| City Business | HAIR BY CHANNY | Hair Salon. | 9902 270TH ST NW STE A | 1 | Approved |
| Total City Businesses: 10 | | | Total Employees: | 19 | |

| Home Occupations | Doing Business As | Business Description | Location | Number of Employees | Status |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Home Occupation | EVANS EXCAVATION LLC | Landscaping. | 27912 PIONEER HWY | 1 | Approved |
| Home Occupation | EMBR, EMILY GIBBONS | Real Estate Agent, Yoga Instructor. | 7120 286TH ST NW | 1 | Approved |
| Home Occupation | PIC OF THE DAY PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC | PHOTO SHOOTS | 7633 STAUFFER RD | 1 | Approved |
| Home Occupation | POP SMOKE LLC | All Other General Merchandise Retailers. | 6619 281ST PL NW | 1 | Approved |
| Home Occupation | ROYAL DIRTWORKS LLC | Excavating - Construction, Demolition - Construction, Grading - Construction, Contractor, Construction. | 27604 74TH AVE NW | 1 | Approved |
| Home Occupation | KEVIN MADISON | Technical Consulting. | 28401 72ND DR NW | 1 | Approved |
| Total Home Occupations: 6 | | | Total Employees: | 6 | |

| Non-Profit | Doing Business As | Business Description | Location | Number of Employees | Status |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Non-Profit | HANDS-ON SKILLS ACADEMY | Academy, Vocational Education. | 27117 92ND AVE NW | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Profit | THE STEVE HUFF MEMORIAL FOUNDATION | Educational Programs. 501(C)3 NON PROFIT, COMMUNITY EVENTS TO EDUCATE, PROMOTE STEVE HUFFS LEGACY, AND ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO PURSUE CAREERS IN THE TRAD | 4849 SAN FRANCISCO DR NE APT 20 | 1 | Approved |
| Total Non-Profits: 2 | | | Total Employees: | 2 | |

| Non-City | Doing Business As | Business Description | Location | Number of Employees | Status |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Non-Resident Business | UPPER LEFT RENOVATIONS & LANDSCAPING LLC | Landscaper. | 4020 SILVANA TERRACE RD | 4 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | BLEACHERS NORTHWEST | Equipment Rental, Sporting Equipment Sales. | 23900 PACIFIC HWY | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | HOLMAN SMALL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS | Auto Leasing Company. | 4001 LEADENHALL RD | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | NW CUSTOM PLUMBING LLC | ANY RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING.. INCLUDING SERVICE, NEWHOMES, REPAIR. | 17146 BRITT RD | 4 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | DICKSON ELECTRIC, LLC | ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR. BUILD REPAIR AND SELL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT , SERVICES AND WIRING. | 5815 163RD AVE SE | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | BAR DIAMOND C ENTERPRISES, LLC | Lawn Maintenance. | 10108 3RD PL SE | 3 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | HOUGH BECK & BAIRD INC. | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SERVICES, PLANNING & DESIGN SVCS | 2101 4TH AVE STE 1800 | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | CELERINO SOLANO | Construction, Contractor, Construction, Demolition - Construction, Landscaping, Remodeling. | 1500 KRISTINE LN | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | GRAY CHARIOT CONSTRUCTION, INC. | CONSTRUCTION FRAMING | 1334 RANDOLPH AVE | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | GOLDEN COAST CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION OF THE NORTHWEST, INC. | GENERAL CONTRACTING | 1201 MONSTER RD SW STE 320 | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | ATLAS ESSENTIALS 7 | Fire Sprinkler System Contractor, Fire Protection Sprinklers, Fire Protection Sprinkler System, Certificate Holder, Heating, Ventilation and Air Condi | 1830 BICKFORD AVE STE 203 | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | PRODIGAL ELECTRIC | Electrical Contractor. | 24101 4TH PL W | 2 | Dishonored Payment |
| Non-Resident Business | PROFESIONAL PLUMBING | Plumbing issues, drain cleaning, side sewer, camera inspections, sewer location, pipe repair, etc. | 2100 196TH ST SW STE 108 | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | J. M. RILEY CO. | GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR | 1200 WHITMAN CT NE | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | SWIM SHINE AQUATICS | Swimming Instructor. | 20001 MARINE DR | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | FAERY FACE ART | Face Painting. | 3510 RIVERCREST DR N | 4 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | SWITCH REMODELING & HANDYMAN SERVICES | Remodeling, Handyman. | 2915 VIEWMONT PL | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | SCHUH FARMS | FAMILY FARM SELLING PRODUCE: CORN, STRAWBERRIES, LETTUCE, ECT. ALSO SELL PIES, COOKIES, BREAD. AS WELL AS MERCHANDISE AND PLANTS. | 15565 STATE ROUTE 536 | 2 | Approved |

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Non-Resident Business | SIG MECHANICAL | Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, HVAC, Contracting, General Business. | 14210 BEVERLY PARK RD UNIT A | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | TEAM PACKAGING | Packaging Boxes, Sales, Packaging Supplies, Food Distributor. | 14500 E 33RD PL | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | ZAYO GROUP, LLC | Public Utilities - Telecommunications | 1621 18TH ST STE 100 | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | ALL PRO PLUMBING NORTHWEST, LLC | PLUMBING SVC & REPAIR | 1902 120TH PL SE STE 102G | 5 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | R&L DECKS & OUTDOORLIVING LLC | Construction. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES | 4711 5TH AVE W | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | BETTER DAY BOUQUETS | Florist. | 3103 156TH ST NW | 0 | Processing |
| Non-Resident Business | READY REBOUND, INC. | Professional Service Organization. | 311 E CHICAGO STREET SUITE 500 OFC | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | BELLASTRO CONSTRUCTION INC. | GENERAL CONTRACTING SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROJECTS | 275 W RIO VISTA AVE STE 6 | 2 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | SLP AI TOOLS | Software SAAS. | 4505 284TH ST NW | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | ALL SEASONS EQUINE THERAPY | Therapy, Counseling. EQUINE FACILITATED PSYCHOTHERAPY, IN OFFICE COUNSELING, TELEHEALTH COUNSELING. | 15483 167TH AVE SE | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | CLR CONSTRUCTION INC | Construction. | 600 SW KENYON ST APT M102 | 0 | Processing |
| Non-Resident Business | HOME THEATRE SPECIALITIES | MEDIA INSTALLER, LOW VOLT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR | 9700 HARBOUR PL STE 221 | 5 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | APPLIED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC | SERVICESUTILITY LOCATING | 18421 E VALLEY HWY | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | SOUND FOUNDATIONS HOME INSPECTIONS | Home Inspector. | 4035 BERRY BLVD | 1 | Approved |
| Non-Resident Business | CANNON CARPENTRY | Finish Carpentry, Remodeling, Construction. | 20709 64TH DR NE | 1 | Approved |
| Total Non-City Businesses: 33 | | | Total Employees: | 59 | |

