



# City of Longview

1525 Broadway  
Longview, WA 98632  
www.ci.longview.wa.us

## Agenda

### Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, March 23, 2026

5:30 PM

Small Conference Room, City Hall

1. **HYBRID MEETING DETAILS**

26-00252 Please click the link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88111913944>  
Webinar ID: 881 1191 3944  
Or Telephone: (253) 205 0468; or (253) 215 8782; or (346) 248 7799

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

26-00253 MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2026

4. **CONSTITUENT COMMENTS**

5. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

6. **WORKSHOP**

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

26-00254 RA LONG AWARD NOMINATION REVIEW  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: MOTION TO SELECT RECIPIENT OF 2026 RA LONG AWARD

26-00255 HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH PROCLAMATION  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE WORDING AND SELECT HPC REPRESENTATIVE TO RECEIVE PROCLAMATION AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 14TH OR MAY 28TH.

26-00256 PANEL AT LONGVIEW LIBRARY  
An informational panel to be placed in front of the library. The placement is to be on the left of the large library sign. Parks and Rec will be placing it. It is to be placed before April 25, 2026 for the library's 100th anniversary event. The panel is in keeping with the other panels like it around town, the same designer and materials will be used.  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

9. **REPORTS**

10. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**



Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, February 23, 2026

5:30 PM

Small Conference Room, City Hall

1. HYBRID MEETING DETAILS

26-00162 Please click the link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88111913944>  
Webinar ID: 881 1191 3944  
Or Telephone: (253) 205 0468; or (253) 215 8782; or (346) 248 7799

2. ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.*

*In attendance: Summer O'Neill, CoChair; Reed Hadley; Amber Havens; Jerame Moore; Angela Stephenson;  
Excused: Mike Chapman, Chair; Gena Graham;  
Staff: Nick Little, CD Director; Irene Rutikanga, Planner; Nancy Vandehey, Admin*

*A round of introductions were made to welcome Amber Havens to the board.*

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

26-00165 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO CHAIR

*Nancy Vandehey, as the clerk of the board, held nominations for Chair and CoChair.  
For Chair - Angela Stephenson was nominated by Summer O'Neill. Mike Chapman was nominated by Jerame Moore.  
With 5 votes, Angela Stephenson was elected as Chair for the 2026-27 period.*

*For CoChair - Summer O'Neill was nominated by Reed Hadley.  
With 5 votes, Summer O'Neill was elected as CoChair for the 2026-27 period.*

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

26-00163 MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 22, 2025  
NO MEETING HELD IN JANUARY

*The minutes were approved as presented. This passed unanimously.*

5. CONSTITUENT COMMENTS

6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

7. WORKSHOP

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

26-00164 RA LONG AWARD

- NOMINATIONS OPEN FEBRUARY 24TH
- NOMINATIONS CLOSE MARCH 12TH
- NOMINATION REVIEWS AT MARCH 23RD HPC MEETING
- AWARD PRESENTATION AT COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY - 14TH OR 28TH

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR RA LONG AWARD**

*Nancy Vandehey shared the desired timeline for the RA Long Award selection.*

*Jerame Moore made a motion, seconded by Reed Hadley, to open nominations for the RA Long Award. This passed unanimously.*

10. **REPORTS**

11. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.*

## **ROBERT A. LONG HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD**

I. PURPOSE; of the R.A. Long Historic Preservation Award is to select on an annual basis someone(s), whom the Longview Historic Preservation Commission decides most helps preserve the legacy of R.A. Long. Nominees may meet any one, or a combination, of the criteria listed below.

### II. NOMINATION;

In developing criteria for selecting an award winner, the Longview Historic Preservation Commission has used as a guideline the Longview City Municipal Code of the Longview Historic Preservation Ordinance: Section 16.12.010 titled 'Findings and purpose.

### III. SELECTION CRITERIA; An award winner may have:

- a) used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping presser through inclusion on Longview's historic register.
- b) encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex, helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.
- c) raised citizen awareness of heritage, cultural @r aesthetics of the city, thus helping create civic pride and the prosperity and welfare of the city.
- d) fostered civic pride in accomplishments of the past and sense of identity based on city's history"
- e) protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy;' examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and
- f) encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.
- g) provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.
- h) conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.

Note: there may be criteria considered that is not expressly listed here.

IV. PROCEDURE OF SELECTION; More than one nomination may be presented by any member of the LHPC or the community. Nominations are open for persons either living or deceased, and not limited only to residents of Longview. Award winners may also be a pair of people, as a husband and wife, or team or group, as a club. After closing of nominations, the floor is open for discussion of merits of each nominee on how they match the criteria. With a vote by hand, the list shall be brought down to two finalists, followed by a final vote. Majority vote shall be the winner.

2026 RA Long Nominations

	Fred Baxter	Susan Piper & Hal Calbom	Sandbaggers	Angela Stephenson
Score				
Used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping presser through inclusion on Longview’s historic register.	X			
Encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex: helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.			X	
Raised citizen awareness of heritage, cultural or aesthetics of the city, thus helping create civic pride and the prosperity and welfare of the city.	X	X	X	X
Fostered civic pride in accomplishments of the past and sense of identity based on city’s history	X		X	X
Protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy; examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and	X	X	X	
Encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.	X			
Provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.	X		X	X
Conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.	X	X	X	X

# RA Long Award 2026 – Nomination Form

This form to be submitted with nomination

Nomination Name of Project, Group or Individual	FRED J. BAXTER HISTORIC HOMES OF THE OLD WEST SIDE (BOOK)
Property Address or name of historic place (if applicable)	
Date of project completion or dates of activities	COMPLETED IN 2025 - BOOK SHOWS THE HISTORIC BEAUTY & SIGNIFICANCE OF LONGVIEW'S UNIQUE HISTORY & COMMUNITY. 100% OF BOOK PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE LONGVIEW LIBRARY FOUNDATION 100TH YEAR.

**Nominee Contact information:**

Name - FRED J. BAXTER

Organization - A.T.A. EMERITUS

Address - 407 KINCOLN AVE. MUKILTEO, WA ~~98275~~ 98275

Telephone - 425-330-6823

Email - FRED@BAXTERARCHITECTS.COM

**Criteria:**

Please check all that apply:

- Used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping presser through inclusion on Longview's historic register.
- Encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex: helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.
- Raised citizen awareness of heritage, cultural or aesthetics of the city, thus helping create civic pride and the prosperity and welfare of the city.
- Fostered civic pride in accomplishments of the past and sense of identity based on city's history
- Protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy; examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and
- Encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.
- Provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.
- Conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.

**Please attach a statement of achievement, photographs, and other supporting documents to this form.**

**Nominated by:**

Name/Organization - BRAD WHITE

Email / Telephone - BRAD@BSWHITE.NET, 916-705-8712

To Whom it May Concern:

I am very pleased to nominate Mr. Fred J. Baxter for the RA Long Award 2026.

Fred has written a comprehensive book on Historic Homes of the Old West Side. This book drives deeply into how the city of Longview was planned and the beautiful homes that still exist in Longview. His detail and documentation of the creation of the Old West Side is outstanding. The photos he took and placed in the book show Longview in a wonderful light. After reading/reviewing this book, I am sure many people will want to visit the community to see the wonderful lake and homes that surround it.

I am not able to include a before and after photo of his book. However, the book can be seen at the Longview Library where it is for sale. Fred has committed that ALL proceeds from the sale of his book will benefit the Library Foundation in commemoration of the library's 100th year.

Quick note about Fred. He is a born leader, went to Mark Morris High School then onto Washington State University. Fred had a very successful architectural firm in the Puget Sound area which he retired from recently. He has always had a passion for the city of Longview and committed himself return and do the research required to write a book that would share the wonderful aspects of Longview's history with others. Longview should be proud of the Historical Homes of the Old West Side and that someone as successful as Fred would return to create a wonderful book.

Regards,

Brad White

Mobile: 916-705-8712

# RA Long Award 2026 – Nomination Form

**This form to be submitted with nomination**

Nomination Name of Project, Group or Individual	
Property Address or name of historic place (if applicable)	
Date of project completion or dates of activities	

**Nominee Contact information:**

Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Organization - \_\_\_\_\_

Address - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - \_\_\_\_\_

Email - \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria:**

Please check all that apply:

- Used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping presser through inclusion on Longview’s historic register.
- Encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex: helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.
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- Protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy; examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and
- Encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.
- Provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.
- Conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.

**Please attach a statement of achievement, photographs, and other supporting documents to this form.**

**Nominated by:**

Name/Organization - \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Telephone - \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached my nomination of Susan Piper and Hal Calbom of Columbia River Reader Press for the Robert A. Long Historic Preservation Award for 2026.

Piper and Calbom contributed to the preservation of Longview history by publishing a monthly feature about the story of Longview's beginning in Columbia River Reader, then publishing a compilation of those columns into a book titled Empire of Trees, in celebration of Longview's 100th anniversary. Sue Piper has faithfully produced the regional free monthly newspaper, Columbia River Reader for over 20 years, helping people in the lower Columbia region experience the good life. The work she, Hal Calbom, and contributors to the Reader and Empire of Trees has significantly helped to preserve the history and heritage of Longview.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Dickinson

Longview

(706) 284-4008

# RA Long Award 2026 – Nomination Form

**This form to be submitted with nomination**

Nomination Name of Project, Group or Individual	LONGVIEW SANDBAGGERS
Property Address or name of historic place (if applicable)	Founders of Longview Squirrel Fest, Nutty Narrows Bridge, former World's largest Squirrel
Date of project completion or dates of activities	1963-current

## **Nominee Contact information:**

Name - Membership

Organization - LONGVIEW SANDBAGGERS CLUB

Address - 1815 OLYMPIA WAY

Telephone - \_\_\_\_\_

Email - ka@dajustice.com

## **Criteria:**

Please check all that apply:

- Used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping presser through inclusion on Longview's historic register.
- Encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex: helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.
- Raised citizen awareness of heritage, cultural or aesthetics of the city, thus helping create civic pride and the prosperity and welfare of the city.
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- Protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy; examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and
- Encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.
- Provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.
- Conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.

**Please attach a statement of achievement, photographs, and other supporting documents to this form.**

## **Nominated by:**

Name/Organization - Sandy B. McNutt

Email / Telephone - \_\_\_\_\_

## **RECENT SANDBAGGER HISTORY**

**As of late, the Sandbaggers are once again busy.**

**After the hijinks of the times of sacrificing mannequins to volcanoes, trying to find DB Cooper, and more, the Baggers got to work.**

**Founding Longview's Squirrel Fest in 2011, it has since grown too big for such a small group to manage, now taken on by the Longview Rotary. In conjunction with the Squirrel Fest, our Longview is now home to nine of the world's only squirrel bridges, added every few years to join the original Nutty Narrows Bridge.**

**For generations, the Sandbaggers have been guardians of the world's largest wooden squirrel on the grounds of the Longview Public Library, and they are proud to announce the newest development.**

**The Sandbaggers are replacing the original squirrel with a new edifice- a brand new state of the art wooden squirrel to guard the Longview Shay locomotive and preserve the memory of every squirrel lost to traffic before the bridges. This work will be done this spring or summer and they are proud to invite everyone to see.**

**In goodwill gestures, the Sandbaggers recently attempted to assist with the city's budget situation by selling the Sandbagger island at Lake Sacajawea, with interested parties invited to contact former Mayor and now member Spencer Boudreau to purchase. Previously, the Sandbaggers had opened the "Chunnel" to provide squirrels with access from the mainland to the island.**

**Similarly, to promote public traffic safety, members have added notice signs warning drivers of the dangers of the "rain gardens" in Downtown Longview with Acme Car Trap signage. Many people from business owners to visitors have appreciated the warning.**

**The Longview Sandbaggers proudly celebrate sixty years in your community, saving history, making it fun, and spreading goodwill and love of our Longview.**

You may be offended by some of the humor in this story. The Sandbaggers won't mind at all.

The group, a loose affiliation of Longview's best ol' boys, have made it their 30-year mission to promote the city with tongues in cheek. While other clubs raise money for the homeless and dress dolls for the needy, the 'Baggers misbehave.

"Did we create havoc?" said a member, sizing up the group's latest prank involving a name for the new Allen Street bridge.

At last week's meeting of the group, said Sandbagger Joe Daggy, "we decided to send a delegation to Florida to sort out the mess." They also elected Bill Putaansuu to be the new fire chief. "He fought fires in the Navy, and he likes flashy uniforms, and he wants a sword and epaulets and a feather in his hat," said Daggy, a local attorney.

The idea for the Sandbaggers was imported from Portland when Walt Naze, who belonged to a group in that city called the Rainmakers, moved to Longview in 1967.

Naze and Barry Morrill roped business-owner buddies into forming the rogue brigade. They chose the name Sandbaggers, which is golf slang for someone who passes as a poor player but clobbers his competition.

To be a 'Bagger, the members say, you have to wade in the Cowlitz River every August and "write your name in the snow. Your parents can't be married — neither of your parents can ever have been married," said one member.

The "goofy bunch of guys," said Daggy, has at various times included "a former state senator, Longview councilmen, college professors, two

college presidents, three or four investment brokers, a few former Kelso City Councilmen, a few bankers, a short handful of lawyers, a CPA, a photographer, businessmen and contractors, a slum lord, a fellow who works on the Alaskan pipeline, a couple of retired restaurateurs, a radio personality, a dentist, bankers and real estate brokers, the owner of the largest local Chinese laundry, and most important of all, a substance-abuse counselor and a bail bondsman."

The Rat Pack wannabes have slowed down in recent years, but they're still proud of their pranking history. During 30 years of Friday lunches, they planned new ways to throw a banana peel in the path of the body politic.

Baggers held "loser breakfasts" for political candidates who were not elected, made dragon floats out of paper plates and entered parades (always with bikini-clad beauties), staged their own cabaret (Ken Plampin in drag) and dumped mounds of sand behind each other's cars.

Their latest bit of mischief was a banner suggesting a name for the new bridge over the Cowlitz River: the Longview-Kelso Bridge (asserting the supremacy of Longview over Kelso).

"We should have made it the 'Al Mortellaro Bridge,' " said longtime Bagger Roland Richards. "You'd have to buy a button to go over."

Mortellaro, a retired teacher who sold thousands of buttons over the years in support of Longview's Go4th celebration, is now in a nursing home. That didn't stop the Sandbaggers from a round of jokes at the old fellow's expense.

A recent visit to a Sandbagger lunch was like sneaking into a clubhouse with a big "Girlz keep out!" sign on it. The group snickered

about the newspaper exposing them and complained about being thrown out of every good restaurant in town. Their salad days, it seems, are over.

"It was a lot more fun when we were all drunk," said Richards.

The meeting formally opened with the "fag salute" — limp wrists raised — and followed with three more jokes at the expense of homosexuals in the next 15 minutes. Then came the Jew jokes.

"What's the only thing two Jews can agree on?"

"That the third Jew should pay for lunch."

Later, Frank King, owner of King's Travel and a potential new member, was asked to stand up and be acknowledged. Behind his back, in a trademark Sandbagger maneuver, a soggy napkin was dropped on his chair.

After lying about their finances and ruminating on past glory, working members returned to their jobs, leaving a good number of retired gents to linger over fortune cookies.

n n n

With 30 years of shared exploits, however, long-time members look fondly to the past. Here are some of their proudest moments:

n After Mount St. Helens erupted, "(retired FBI agent) Tom Manning organized the 'Bagger and a pilot to fly over the mountain and drop a virgin in the volcano," Daggy said.

"Manning issued a press release which was picked up by national wire services, along with a photo of the Sandbaggers standing in front of their chartered airplane with a department-store mannequin.

"The copy proclaimed that the public-spirited Sandbaggers had a solution to the Mount St. Helens problem, but unfortunately they were unable to find a virgin and had to settle for a mannequin. Everyone from Paul Harvey to Hugh Hefner ran with this story."

"We made 'Playboy After Dark,' " boasted Naze. "Someone in Kentucky read it and sent us three gallons of Kentucky moonshine in the mail."

n For years, the Baggers would welcome famous visitors with sandbag "knightings" – the hanging of little bags of sand around the person's neck. Gov. Dan Evans knelt for the dubious honor, and the time they draped Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen with a sandbag necklace, "the sand dribbled out into her bra," quipped a 'Bagger.

"When Gregory Peck came to Longview, the Sandbaggers made a presentation to him of a 'ceremonial log.' The speech was long, and Peck bore it well, but he was moved to some other emotion when at last he was handed the log, which it turned out was fairly dripping with pitch."

n In the late 60s, Longview had a rare snowstorm. When the city was sluggish about clearing the streets, Sandbaggers dressed in their trademark red-striped jackets and gathered around a flooded drain on Vandercook Way to dip for smelt.

n They once staged a demonstration for traffic safety on the Civic Circle. And near the Civic Center is another Sandbagger landmark.

According to Daggy, "another Sandbagger exploit that has captured national and even international attention over the years is the 'Nutty Narrows' squirrel bridge, built by Sandbagger Amos Peters to protect squirrels from traffic on Olympia Way.

"The bridge again came to regional attention when the Sandbaggers discovered that it was missing, and reported its absence to the press. A spokesman from the Longview Parks and Recreation department (who also curiously happened to be a Sandbagger) told Portland television that the city had no idea where the bridge was, directly denying the 'irresponsible' rumor that the city had taken the bridge down for repairs.

"The story of the 'Disappearance of the Squirrel Bridge,' which the Sandbaggers had blamed on terrorists from Kelso, was just beginning to pick up momentum which might have taken it national (calls for more information were coming from far and wide) when the idiot reporter covering the story for The Daily News found the bridge at the metal fabrication shop where Longview Parks and Recreation had taken it for repairs," Daggy said. "He could have had a Pulitzer."

Numerous times, the group infiltrated local events.

Once, Daggy said, "A regional gathering of union officials came to Kelso for a meeting. The 'Baggers, at the request of the local organizers, posed as drunken waiters, proceeding to disrupt the banquet, take away salads before the diners had a chance to eat them, spill water, drop dishes, argue loudly with each other about how to split any tips." As things got out of hand, Daggy said, the group "walked out and went on strike ...

"When an association of police chiefs held its annual convention in our community, one of the Sandbaggers, wearing an ugly wig and a lab

coat, took to the lectern posing as a 'noted criminologist.' His topic — 'The Need to Treat Criminals With Tenderness.' The 'criminologist' explained to his

stunned audience that most criminals are under extreme tension when apprehended and that it is the arresting officer's duty to put them at ease.

" 'Studies have shown,' the fake speaker said, 'especially in the case of violent crimes, such as rape,

that a simple act of acceptance and courtesy such as taking the perpetrator out for a cup of coffee, or inviting him home to have dinner with the arresting officer's family, can reduce the criminal's stress by as much as 40 percent, preventing further damage to his self esteem.'

"Just imagine how 150 career law enforcement professionals reacted to that message," Daggy said. "You are not even close."

Letters to the group after such pranks expressed mock horror along with appreciation for a good laugh.

When the movie "D.B. Cooper" opened in Longview, Sandbagger Jerry Kivela was manager of the local cinema. Kivela arranged to have Manning — the actual agent who headed up the D.B. Cooper task force — speak before the film was screened

"It was all part of the promotion," Daggy said. "But unknown to Manning, Kivela had issued a press release to Portland television stations that the Sandbaggers would outdo the FBI by capturing D.B. Cooper once and for all before a live audience."

While Manning spoke, the Baggers lowered a dummy dressed as Cooper behind him in a makeshift parachute harness. The dummy was wearing a rain coat, a hat and sunglasses, and carrying a valise stuffed to overflowing with stage money.

"The audience laughed, and Manning looked confused as the curtain behind him closed. Then a 'Bagger dressed as Cooper ran across the stage carrying the valise, being pursued by a dozen or so Sandbaggers, as television news cameras cranked away," said Daggy, who remembers the stunt well — he played Cooper.

n n n

It's been years since the D.B. Cooper stunt. The membership has aged, and the spirit of the club may be aging along with them. Aside from the bridge naming and a semi-serious look at taking over Go4th last year, the Baggers seem to have bagged it.

Maybe, like martinis and cigars, boys-only bad taste will stage a comeback. Even if they're using walkers, the Baggers will be ready.

As elder statesman Herb Hadley left a recent lunch, someone called out, "Drive carefully, Herb."

Another muttered, "Don't drive at all, Herb."

And yet a third: "I move we take out another insurance policy on him."

# RA Long Award 2026 – Nomination Form

**This form to be submitted with nomination**

Nomination Name of Project, Group or Individual	Angela Stephenson
Property Address or name of historic place (if applicable)	
Date of project completion or dates of activities	

## **Nominee Contact information:**

Name - Angela Stephenson

Organization - Longview Public Library

Address - 1600 Louisiana Street Longview, WA 98632

Telephone - 360.442-5320

Email - Angela.Stephenson@ci.longview.wa.us

## **Criteria:**

Please check all that apply:

- Used research and documentation to enhance and acknowledge buildings, sites and districts thus helping preserve through inclusion on Longview's historic register.
- Encouraged or performed restoration maintenance to preserve the aesthetics of cultural assets; ex: helped restore a totem pole, park, building, store or street curb appeal.
- Raised citizen awareness of heritage, cultural or aesthetics of the city, thus helping create civic pride and the prosperity and welfare of the city.
- Fostered civic pride in accomplishments of the past and sense of identity based on city's history
- Protected historic resources to attract tourists and visitors, thus stimulating local economy; examples as writing plays, books, brochures, contributing works of art as statues, murals, signs, and/or financial assistance enabling any of these taxes, for as incentives, provide and
- Encouraged, and or assisted private owners to preserve historical features of original buildings, districts, neighborhoods, streets and sites.
- Provided identification of historic landmarks, buildings and land sites.
- Conserved or restored valuable historical materials as artifacts, documents and photos.

**Please attach a statement of achievement, photographs, and other supporting documents to this form.**

## **Nominated by:**

Name/Organization - Jacob Cole - Longview Public Library

Email / Telephone - jacob.cole@ci.longview.wa.us / 360-442-5309

## **Nomination for the Robert A. Long Historic Preservation Award**

### **Nominee: Angela Stephenson**

Angela has been an extraordinary advocate, archivist, preservationist, and enthusiastic steward of Longview's history for many years. Through her dedication, expertise, and quiet leadership, she has helped ensure that the stories, documents, and visual records that define Longview's past remain preserved and accessible for the community.

Angela played an active role in the planning and celebration of Longview's Centennial, serving on the committee that helped organize and support the citywide commemoration. In addition to helping plan events, she contributed to fundraising efforts by assisting with the sale of commemorative items, helping generate support for the celebration of Longview's history.

Much of Angela's preservation work has taken place through her role at the Longview Public Library, particularly in the Longview Room, which serves as an important archive of the community's historical materials. For years, Angela has carefully preserved and managed historical documents, maps, newspapers, photographs, and other materials that tell the story of Longview and its people. Her stewardship ensures that these fragile and often irreplaceable records are protected for future generations while remaining available to researchers and the public.

Over the past three years, Angela has taken the initiative to elevate how Longview's history is shared with the public by working to have historic blueprints, maps, and photographs professionally matted and framed so they can be displayed and appreciated. Through this work, items that once sat quietly in archival storage have become visible pieces of Longview's story, helping residents connect with the city's rich heritage.

Angela's commitment to historic preservation extends far beyond her daily responsibilities. She is an active member of the 27 Club, the Historic Preservation Commission, the America's 250 Committee, and the Library's Centennial Planning Committee, where she continues to advocate for the preservation and celebration of Longview's history. She has also been instrumental in efforts to establish a historic marker for the Longview Public Library, helping recognize the building's role in the cultural life of the city.

Angela has also worked diligently to improve access to Longview's historical records. She has helped digitize reels of Longview Daily News microfilm, ensuring that decades of local reporting are preserved and easier to access. In addition, she has scanned historic photographs from the Library's collection and made them available through the Library's website, opening these valuable visual records to the broader community.

Inside the Library, Angela regularly creates historical displays that showcase Longview's past, bringing local history to life for residents and visitors. These exhibits highlight important moments, places, and people from the city's history, encouraging the community to take pride in its heritage.

While many of these activities are connected to Angela's professional role, what truly distinguishes her is the way she consistently goes above and beyond what is required. Angela is a quiet but powerful champion of Longview's history, dedicating countless hours to preserving, organizing, and sharing the city's historical record. Authors, historians, genealogists, and community researchers regularly turn to her for assistance, and many consider her an irreplaceable resource when exploring Longview's past.

Through her dedication, knowledge, and passion for preservation, Angela has made a lasting contribution to the protection and understanding of Longview's history. Her work embodies the spirit of the Robert A. Long Historic Preservation Award, ensuring that the legacy of this community continues to be remembered, studied, and celebrated.

# *Proclamation*

*City of Longview, Washington*

## **Historic Preservation Month** *May 2026*

WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has declared May to be National Historic Preservation Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Longview lies at the ancient crossroads of both the Cowlitz and Chinook Indian Tribes in their periodic journey to harvest and trade fish, berries, and other items; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Longview also enjoy a rich legacy of pioneering spirit as the modern home to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century communities of Monticello, Freeport and LaDu; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Longview also enjoy the lasting benefits of the urban planning and generosity of our city founder, R.A. Long; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS Longview's Historic Preservation Commission wishes to acknowledge the work by local individuals and groups to support, maintain, and restore historic assets within the city as vital to understanding its past and charting its future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview, do hereby proclaim the month of May to be

### **“Longview Historic Preservation Month”**

in the City of Longview and call upon all in our community to join everyone across the nation in recognizing and participating in this tradition.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this **XX** day of May 2026.

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**Erik Halvorson, Mayor**

# A CENTURY OF SHARED STORIES

## FOUNDER R. A. LONG'S VISION & DEDICATION

As we celebrate our Centennial in 2026, the Longview Public Library stands as a cherished century-old beacon. Dedicated April 28, 1926, Architect Arch N. Torbitt crafted this elegant red brick Georgian gem, accented with terracotta, crowned by a graceful cupola, and framed by granite stairs to bronze doors.



▲ Worker near the cupola during 1925 construction.

Inside, Italian Travertine marble graces the vestibule and stairs, while ivory walls, antique finish, black walnut doors and custom furniture create timeless warmth.

## GROWTH THROUGH the DECADES

City founder Robert A. Long gifted \$150,000 for construction, \$10,000 for books, and three years of operating support—birthing a library of vision and care. The city fully embraced it in 1929, with Helen Johns as first Librarian (1925–1928).

Through the decades, it grew: remodeled in 1953 by Kenneth C. Woolen; hosting Lower Columbia College classes (1938–1950); blooming with the Memory Rose Garden (1967, inspired by Avis Fowler); and expanding in 1968–1969 to 36,000 square feet.



▲ The Library's main circulation desk, circa 1920's.

▼ BELOW: The First Library Board, with Henry Suzzalo (University of Washington President), R.A. Long (center) and A.L. Gibbs, (Longview Mayor).

## THE HEART of our COMMUNITY

Children have always held a special place here—from beloved story times and summer reading programs to the first bathtub donated in 1978.

Designated a National Historic Site in 1985, our library endures—deeply cherished, and forever woven into the heart of this community as a beacon of knowledge, connection and shared history.

*“The Longview Public Library provides an open door to knowledge,”*

—R. A. Long, April 28th, 1926

# LONGVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY



1926 Dedication: City leaders and guests with founder Robert A. Long (center).

All photos courtesy of the Longview Public Library and the Cowlitz County Historical Museum.