

CITY OF SUMAS

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2023

NEW! ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

At cityofsumas.com

- View your utility bill online
- Sign-up for autopay
- Sign-up for paperless billing
- Make online payments
- Phone payments also accepted 24/7.
(844) 658-1165

TIP: Have your utility account number, invoice number, or ticket number ready in order to make online or phone payments.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

You are invited! At Sumas City Hall

January 9, 2023, 7 pm

January 23, 2023; 7 pm

February 13, 2023; 7 pm

February 27, 2023, 7 pm

Happy New Year!

Check the City of Sumas Newsletters and the cityofsumas.com website frequently for news and updates regarding Sumas throughout 2023!

Christmas Tree Pick-up

The Sumas Public Works crew will pick-up your Christmas tree! Please put your tree out by the curb before Monday, January 9th, and the Public Works crew will pick them up!

Sumas Community Center Update

Coming soon! The Sumas Community Center renovations are wrapping up, and the Community Center will be opening again soon. Flooring is going in now, and cabinets are scheduled for the end of January. Stay tuned for an opening date in late Winter/early Spring!

Emergency Water Shut-off

Freezing temperatures can mean frozen pipes. It's a good idea to have an emergency water shut off at your home so that you can turn your own water off in case of an emergency. If you don't already have one, consider installing one.

Utility Rates

Your February bill with January's usage will reflect the new 2023 utility rates. Check cityofsumas.com for details on these rates. And just a reminder that sewer rates are calculated based on **actual** water usage. Keep an eye on your monthly water usage. A spike in water usage (and therefore sewer usage), could indicate a potential water leak. Please call City Hall if you have any questions (360) 988-5711.

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND DO BUSINESS

2023 Dog License Renewals

Issued Dog licenses are now due for renewal, starting January 1st. First time tags can be issued at anytime. Stop by City Hall to license your dog. Registering can help reunite your found dog with you!

- Spayed/Neutered = \$15 per dog
- Non Spayed/Neutered = \$25 per dog

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"Thank you to our doers"

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year's Eve. I know for me it went by very quickly, especially given the weather and its' surprises. This last Northeast wind, or Polar Vortex as some would call it, reminded me of the first year we moved to Sumas. The winter came on strong, with high winds, some snow, and the power out for a day and a half. Even though we had the water trickling in the sinks, the pipes burst. We had around 60 breaks in the system that we had to repair. In the meantime, I called my boss, at the time, and told him that he had sent me to work in Siberia! I grew up in Custer, and never had winters like we do here in Sumas. But, after being here for a few decades, it kind of grows on you, and you can claim 'Sumas Strong', don't you think? I love living here and can't imagine calling anyplace else home.

Well, what a year 2022 has been, with lots going on, and a lot to be thankful for. Most have been able to move back, or are close to moving back into their homes. Let's pray and do what we can for those who are still struggling to get back. Some, especially many of our older generation, may not return, and will, or have already, sold their homes. This hurts my heart.

I want to welcome a couple of new faces at City Hall. Arielle Bons is at the front desk as you enter City Hall and will greet you with a smile and a hello as you enter. Stop by and say "hi" when you get chance if you haven't already. Another is Patricia Mullett, who is the LDRM (Local Disaster Recovery Manager). Her role was created with a generous gift of funds from the Emergency management Division of the State. If you have questions about disaster recovery or related issues, please feel free to reach out to her. She is here to help!

In the past year, the City staff and I have been working with many entities to get the ball rolling on projects to mitigate and lessen any impacts future flooding may have on Sumas. As many of you know, this is an uphill battle. Three steps forward, two steps back. But progress is being made, and we are hoping that this year brings some fruition to our efforts. A special thanks goes to Sunny Aulakh for his drive in making sure we are remembered.

The council has approved the budget for 2023, and I know there is some concern about utility rates going up. However, after much pain, it was decided due to the City's rising cost of electricity and sewage discharge fees, that an increase to the residents was required. I hope you all understand. Thank you to Jennifer Bell, for her hard work in preparing the budget and explaining all the details to us.

I want to acknowledge the City crew for their hard work, going above and beyond to keep the City running for us. From keeping the lights on and making sure our water is safe, to diligently keeping the roads clear so we can safely travel within the city. So many things they do, I really appreciate them. It is their job, but you also can't put a price on a great attitude and diligence. This includes all the City workers, being around them so much this past year has given me more perspective on what goes on from day to day, and Sumas has a great team.

As most of you know, during the weekend of Christmas, there was concern about how the Nooksack River was going to react to the rapid temperature rise and snowmelt. Thankfully, there was no event, but talk about riding the wave! Some of the citizens of Sumas have signed up for the Voyent Alert! service we have in place, and therefore received the alerts and updates about the status of what was happening during this weather pattern. In this case, the notices were put out by our own Mollie Bost (thank you!). Sunny, our Police chief, and our officers, were our boots on the ground, confirming the physical state of the river and creeks at key points, all hours, throughout the weekend. We stayed in close communication with each other throughout the weekend, which included daily meetings with the county and weather specialists until the threat ended, and the all clear was sent out.

I strongly encourage everyone to sign up for the Voyent Alert! service so that you can stay in the know. The system has options for you to receive alerts on your cell phone, landline, or email, you will receive the alerts even if you are out of town.

"Thank you to our doers"

If you ever want to know what the Council is doing, what decisions are being made on your behalf, etc., you can find the Council meeting minutes and agendas on the City's website. Click the "Minutes and Agendas" link and you will find over a year's worth of information. I encourage you to keep abreast, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

As most of you know the Sumas Chamber president has stepped down after two years of leading the Chamber. She did a great job of organizing many of the events around town. Let's give Nicole Postma a special thank you for her heart and hard work. Thank you, Nicole!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for sticking it out through the rough times we have had, and for your support of your City, its' employees, Mayor, and Council.

Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,

Bruce Bosch
Mayor

FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATES

Hello from your Local Disaster Recovery Manager!



Hi Sumas! I'm Patricia and I'm very excited to be working for the City of Sumas coordinating long-term flood recovery and resiliency efforts. One of my top priorities in this position is keeping you updated on recovery progress and hearing directly from you! On that note, I've included a few key updates about available funding and the link to a 2 minute survey so you can share your thoughts on what recovery and long-term resilience could look like for Sumas! If you need any assistance or have any questions about recovery, please don't hesitate to reach out - I work for you.

Share your thoughts with me in a 2 min. survey:



[BIT.LY/SUMASSURVEY](https://bit.ly/sumassurvey)

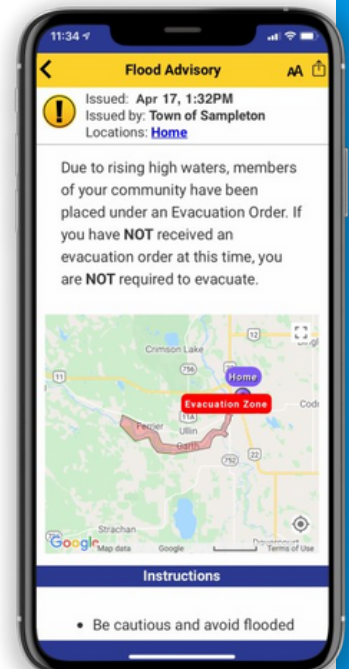
Contact Patricia: LDRM@cityofsumas.com or 360-988-5711

Did you know that you can receive emergency alerts about predicted flooding, road maintenance, water advisories, and other weather events as part of our "Get Ready, Get Set, Go!" program?

Sign up today to receive alerts by phone, email, mobile app, or text message!

Register on your phone by downloading the Voyent Alert! App or online here:

VOYENT-ALERT.COM/US/COMMUNITY/#REGISTRATION



AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE UPDATES



\$2M IN HOUSING ASSISTANCE & HOME REPAIRS VIA WLTRG

Whatcom County received a grant of \$2,050,000 from the WA State Military Department to aid in housing assistance, household appliances, and home repair for those affected by the 2021 flood. The Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group will be distributing these funds. Persons must meet HUD low-income requirements or be Disabled or Seniors. If you are interested in applying or learning if you qualify for assistance, please **contact WLTRG's Disaster Case Management at whatcomDCM@gmail.com or call 360-788-5392.** Para español: 360-525-3748, mayra.wcdcm@gmail.com.

NW WASHINGTON DISASTER GRANT IS OPEN!

The NW Washington Disaster Grant for businesses affected by flooding between Oct. 2021 and April 2022 is **now open!** The application will be open as long as there are funds available, so be sure to apply soon! If you need technical assistance to complete the application or have any questions, let me know and I'll connect you with support staff who specialize in these applications! Find more information and apply at:



[BIT.LY/WADISASTERGRANT](https://bit.ly/wadisastergrant)



WA AWARDED \$30M FROM CBDG-DR GRANT

Washington has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant of \$30 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for long-term recovery and mitigation efforts in response to the November 2021 flooding. Currently, the Department of Commerce is conducting an unmet needs assessment and drafting up a proposed action plan for these funds. It's my priority to keep you updated on developments. When the action plan has been submitted, **you'll be able to see the proposed use of these funds and submit public comment.** Stay tuned for updates on this!



While the library currently remains closed due to 2021 flooding, the reopening of the Sumas Library gets closer! Library staff continue to work with city officials to coordinate renovations and are pleased to announce that drywall is installed and walls are painted. Carpet installation began the last week of December, and shelving for the library building is



expected to arrive the first week of January. Once shelving is installed, staff will begin filling those shelves, which is currently planned for the second week of January. Library staff look forward to reopening once the foyer is done, bathrooms installed, and an occupancy permit received.

While the Sumas Library is still being renovated, we continue to serve Sumas patrons through a weekly Bookmobile stop, requested materials pick-up in the parking lot, and free WiFi service 24/7. The bookmobile stops at the Sumas Library on Fridays

from 10 A.M.- 2 P.M. and has a revolving collection of books, DVDs, games, coloring books and other items. Staff are also available to help you find what you are looking for, tell you about upcoming events, and answer questions about your account. Pickup of requested materials at the Sumas Library lockbox will be available until the library reopens. To get started, select Sumas as your pickup location, and start requesting some items!

Selected Upcoming Programs at WCLS

For a complete listing of events, including storytimes, history events and Whatcom Reads, visit wcls.org/events

SUMAS BOOK GROUP: Meetings alternate monthly between open discussion of members' recent favorites one month and discussing the book club pick the next month. For January, discussion is open. For February, members will read [Homegoing By Yaa Gyasi](#). Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10 A.M. January 21st & February 18th

EVERSON BOOK GROUP: Choose your own book! Every month will have a new “where”, and participants can pick any book/audiobook that fits the theme. Destination for January is Washington State, for February it’s Africa, Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 4 P.M. January 5th & February 2. Everson Library.

“THE WATERS ARE RISING” WITH CARL CROUSE: Mr. Crouse will discuss stories about the November 2021 flooding in Sumas. February 15th, 6 P.M. Sumas Library.

EVERSON & SUMAS TEEN CLUBS: For grades 6-12. Everson club meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 3:30 P.M. Sumas club will meet monthly on the 4th Monday at 3:30 P.M. once the library is reopened.