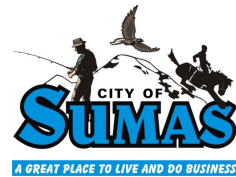


# City of Sumas Newsletter



Here's what's happening in Sumas over the next couple of months.

## June 27-28, 2025

### Sumas Community Days

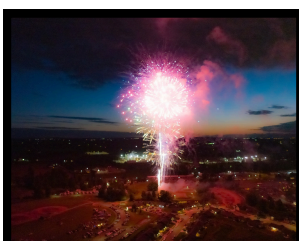
Sumas Community Days is scheduled for June 27-28, 2025, and is brought to you by the Sumas Chamber of Commerce, along with many local business sponsors!

Community Days kicks off with a Cornhole Tournament in the City Park - Games begin at 6pm on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required. Food options will be available at the park, or bring a picnic or dinner to-go from one of the local restaurants, and come listen to music and cheer on the teams!

The fun continues on Saturday morning, June 28<sup>th</sup> with the start of the 3 on 3 basketball tournament (pre-registration required) and the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Show N Shine Car Show. Then the Parade begins at 11am on Cherry Street, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Fight immediately following the parade. The Soaker zone is on Cherry St. between Columbia St. and Mitchell St.!

Festivities continue in the park for the afternoon with vendors and food, live music, and kids activities - including a scavenger hunt!

The day finishes with a fireworks show that begins at dusk at the Rodeo Grounds.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 27th @7pm  
June 9th @ 7pm  
June 23rd @ 7pm  
July 14th @ 7pm

#### CITY HALL CLOSURES

Independence Day: July 4, 2025

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Splash Pad - opening  
Memorial Day Weekend!

#### Free Chipper Service

- May 16th  
10am - 12pm
- May 17th  
9am - 11am
- June 20th  
10am - 12pm
- June 21st  
9am - 11am
- July 18th  
10am - 12pm
- July 19th  
9am - 11am

Sumas Community Days  
• June 27th and 28th

SUMAS CITY HALL  
433 Cherry St.  
P.O. Box 9  
Sumas, WA 98295  
360.988.5711



## THE SUMAS MUSEUM

The photos in the windows are how the buildings looked in 1900 on Cherry St! The blue building is Lapp's!

If anyone else is interested in a "picture from the past" for their window, please stop by the Museum to look at the photos!



## OUTDOOR BURNING

Sumas follows the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's burn restrictions for recreational fires.

Check on any burn restrictions before starting a recreational fire. Contact the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's Office at 360-778-5900 or visit their website at: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/FireMarshal>.

Outdoor burning is always prohibited within City limits, except for recreational fires in designated fire pits, following the Fire Marshal's restrictions.



## RODEO GROUNDS AND BALLFIELD EVENTS

Curious about what's happening at the Sumas Rodeo Grounds and Ballfields?

The Events Calendar on the [cityofsumas.com](http://cityofsumas.com) website lists when the grounds are rented for an event!

The groups renting the facilities may also share details and specific information about the events from their event pages or websites.



## FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

The Sumas enclosed dog park is located next to Ballfields 3 & 4, off Hovel Road. At the dog park, or while walking your dog, please pick-up after them and dispose of bags properly. We want to keep all sidewalks/walkways, and parks clear for all to enjoy!

Dog licenses can be purchased at City Hall, and can aid in reuniting lost pets with their owners! \$15 per spayed/neutered dog, or \$25 per non-spayed/neutered dog.

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## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is in full swing!

Special thanks to Van Werven Trucking and Cascade Compost and Soil for donating soil and the delivery of the soil to the Sumas Community Garden for the Senior's raised garden beds!

Limited plot space may still be available, sign-up forms are available at City Hall if you're interested!



## SUMMER SEWER AVERAGES

Just a reminder - during the months of April through October, sewer charges are billed based on the average water usage during the winter months (Nov. - March).

Sewer charges are based on water usage. Summer sewer averages mean that the sewer cost will never be higher than the average usage in winter. Averages are used so that using water to fill pools, water lawns/flowers, or washing vehicles won't increase sewer charges.

## Summer Camping and Boating!

We hope you make wonderful Summer memories this year, but please remember to follow the Sumas Municipal Code Chapter 9.56.060 and 20.18.110 for parking and recreational vehicles.

- It is unlawful to park any vehicle, trailer, or combination thereof for a period of longer than 72 hours in a 96 hour period in the same block, except motorhomes and travel trailers - which may not be parked for a period longer than 7 days in any 60 day period.
- A camper, camp trailer, or recreational vehicle may not be parked on the lot of an existing home for the purpose of occupancy for a period of over 21 days within any calendar year.

## Headed out of town on Vacation?

Sumas Police Department will patrol your home while you're away! Call City Hall at 360-988-5711 to be added to the vacation watch schedule.

Happy Summer!



Sumas Library  
461 2<sup>nd</sup> Street / 360-988-2501  
wcls.org

Branch Hours

Monday 10 A.M – 6 P.M.  
Wednesday 10 A.M – 6 P.M.  
Saturday 10 A.M – 5 P.M.

Library Express Hours

Daily 6 A.M – 11 P.M

**Did you know?**

There will be a WCLS library levy lid lift measure on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot.  
Check out [www.wcls.org/levy](http://www.wcls.org/levy) for more information.

**UPCOMING SUMAS LIBRARY CLOSURES:**

Memorial Day - Monday, May 26  
Juneteenth Day - Thursday, June 19  
Independence Day - Friday, July 4

**Upcoming Programs at Sumas Library**

For a complete listing of events at all branches visit [wcls.org/events](http://wcls.org/events).



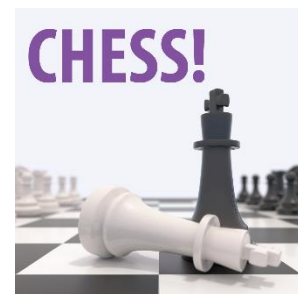
**SUMAS TEEN CORPS** We need teens with a community spirit to help out with our programs for kids on the first Saturday of the month. You'll help pass out supplies and assist kids in all the making and the doing. Teens in grades 6-12 can register online or talk to a Sumas Library staff person. [Register here.](#)

**FRIENDS OF THE SUMAS LIBRARY (FOSL) MEETING** Want to help support the library beyond checking items and attending events? Join the Friends of the Sumas Library, a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting the Sumas Library. Teen volunteers encouraged to attend! When we work together, we can do great things for our community. Attend a meeting or talk to staff to sign-up for the monthly emails. Visit [friendsofthesumaslibrary.org](http://friendsofthesumaslibrary.org) to stay up-to-date. Meets monthly on 1st Monday, September – May. Monday, June 2 and Monday, July 7 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.



**SUMAS STORYTIME** For ages 2-6. An open program that includes stories, rhymes, and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation. Mondays through May 12. 10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**CHESS AND CHECKERS!** An open program for chess players of all abilities to play one another! Snacks provided. Wednesdays, 3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.



## LUNCH BREAK BOOK CLUB



**LUNCH BREAK BOOK CLUB** Take a break in your day and join us for our weekly, low-commitment, theme-based book club. Each month, we provide a prompt (like "growing old"), then you choose something that relates. Text or audio, genre (mystery, sci-fi/fantasy, literary fiction, biography, non-fiction, etc.) or style of book (novel, poetry, graphic novel, novella, etc.) can be whatever you like. You can read something different each week or the same book for the whole month – or mix it up. As long as your item has something to do with the theme as you understand it, you're good! Bring a sack lunch if you'd like. Coffee and tea provided. The theme for May is "Supernatural." Meets weekly on two different days – themes will be the same for both days, so choose whichever day fits your schedule best. Mondays and Wednesdays. 1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

**CRAFTING COMMUNITY** Drop in with your favorite arts and crafts projects and spend some time creating alongside other crafters. Stitch, hook, paint, draw – get those projects you've been putting off finished! Share your skills or learn new ones - all while connecting with other adults. Some knitting and paper craft supplies are available. Coffee and tea provided. Mondays, 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.



## SUMAS BOOK CLUB



**SUMAS BOOK GROUP** A discussion of a diverse series of fiction and non-fiction books to broaden your reading horizons. Meet friends new and old as we connect through the shared love of books and reading. Call or stop by the Sumas Library to find out what book the group is reading this month. Monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. 10 A.M. – 11 A.M.



**The Library Game**  
Get a Book Pocket. Collect Cards. Become a Legend.

Stop in at your local WCLS library or check out [www.wcls.org/librarygame/](http://www.wcls.org/librarygame/) to learn more!

# SUMMER READING 2025

Summer Reading starts in June!

Check out our [Summer Reading page](#) for more info.

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF** Join us all week long as we celebrate the beginning of our Summer Reading program. Collect your Summer Reading card, learn about summer programs, and connect with other readers. All youth under 18 will receive a free book to pick out and keep forever. Monday, June 23, 10:00am - 6:00pm.

**STORYTIME** For ages 2-6, 30 minutes. An open program that includes stories, rhymes, and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation. Monday, July 7, 14, and 21, 10:30am - 11:00am.

**NO-COOK COOKING** You don't need sharp knives, heavy pans, and open flames to prepare delicious food to eat and share. We'll have everything you need to measure, mix, and master tasty no-cook recipes for snacks and treats to fuel your summer of fun. Grades K-5. Monday, July 7, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

**TEEN D&D CAMP** Join us for a week-long camp of rule-learning, character creation, gaming, and much more. Whether you are a Dungeons & Dragons expert or a complete beginner, this camp is for you. We will explore how to play the game, how to create a character and play through a one-shot campaign. All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your lucky dice! Registration is required. Grades 6-12. Monday, July 7, 9, and 12, 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

**TEEN UNSTRUCTURED ART** We've got an assortment of art materials and random items that are just waiting for your creativity. Come glue, paint, cut, collage and make something that you can take home. Grades 6-12. Monday, July 14, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

**FUN & GAMES** READY, Set, Go! We'll undertake a bunch of timed challenges to see if we can do something never done before. Do you have it in you? Grades K-5. Monday, July 21, 1:00pm - 2:00pm.

**COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT PRESENTED BY FOSL** The Friends of the Sumas Library (FOSL) host a FREE movie showing at Sycamore Park (next to the Sumas History Museum on 2nd St). The movie will be announced soon. Check with Sumas Library staff or visit the [friendsofthesumaslibrary.org](http://friendsofthesumaslibrary.org) for the most current information. Concessions of hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, soda and water will be available for purchase beginning at 7:30 p.m. The movie will start after sunset. Friday, July 25, 7:30pm - 11:00pm.

**TEDDY BEAR PICNIC** Ages 2-6, 30 minutes. Bring your favorite stuffed animal friend along as we read stories and sing songs outside on a blanket (weather permitting). We will follow up with some activities and snacks to share. Monday, July 28, 10:30am - 11:00am.

**TEEN BOOK MAKING** Join us at the library to make books and connections. We will try a new project to stretch our creative muscles and tell our stories. Grades 6-12. Monday, July 28, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

**SUMMER READING CELEBRATION PARTY** Join us for an all-day, drop-in style party to celebrate the completion of our Summer Reading program! Visit any of our branches for fun activities, crafts, book recommendations, and lots of library love. Bring the whole family as we celebrate our reading accomplishments. Saturday, August 23, 10:00am - 5:00pm



# LIBRARY LEVY PROPOSITION 2025-02

## Restore the Library Levy rate to \$0.42/\$1,000

WCLS's Board of Trustees is asking voters to restore the library levy rate to \$0.42 in response to increased costs and demand for services.

- Whatcom County Library System last asked voters to approve a levy lid lift in 2009. At that time, voters approved a rate of \$0.44 per thousand dollars.\* WCLS has been frugal and strategic with its last levy lid lift annual funding and reserves.
- Since then, the number of people we serve and operating costs have significantly increased, and the library system's expenses now exceed annual revenues.

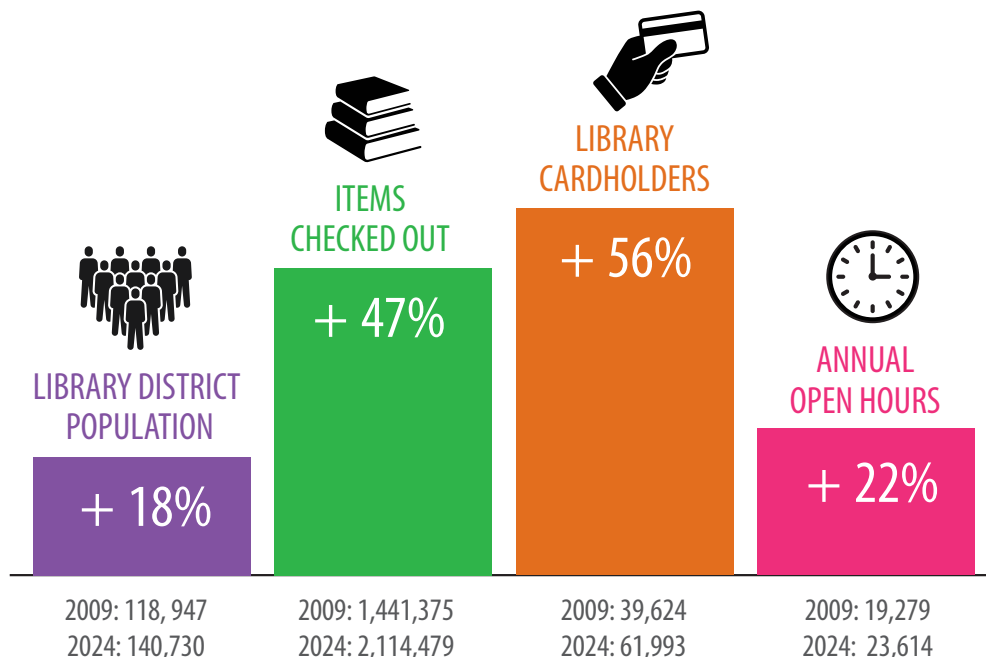
**VOTE  
AUG. 5,  
2025**

If the levy rate is not restored, the library will need to cut services and eliminate staff positions.

*\*In today's market, a levy rate of \$0.42 per thousand dollars of assessed value will provide sufficient funding to support current services and will sustain the system into the future. State law allows library systems to request up to \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value. WCLS is asking for what we need, not the maximum allowed. Learn how levies work at [wcls.org/levy](http://wcls.org/levy).*



### CHANGES SINCE LAST LEVY LID LIFT:



Inflation and other factors have driven up the cost of library materials, staff minimum wage, supplies, utilities and fuel.

For example:  
In the past decade, the library's cost to purchase eBooks and eAudiobooks has increased 164%. In the past year alone, demand for eBooks and eAudio has increased 12%.

WHAT WOULD IT FUND?



## HOW WOULD THIS NEW LEVY RATE AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

Local property taxes provide 95.1% of the library system's operating budget. If approved by voters, this proposition would authorize WCLS to restore its property tax levy rate from its current level of 26 cents to 42 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

| HOME VALUE* | CURRENT YEARLY COST | NEW YEARLY COST        |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| \$400,000   | \$104               | \$168 (\$14 per month) |
| \$600,000   | \$156               | \$252 (\$21 per month) |
| \$800,000   | \$208               | \$336 (\$28 per month) |

*\*Exemptions are available for qualifying seniors, people retired due to disabilities and veterans with disabilities.*

## A YES VOTE MEANS:

- ☒ Maintain current level of staffing, open hours and services
- ☒ Continue supporting a robust collection of library materials, including physical and digital items, with minimal wait times and online/streaming resources
- ☒ Address deferred maintenance and facilities needs
- ☒ Pursue opportunities for library building projects

## A NO VOTE MEANS:

- ☐ Cut staff, reduce open hours and eliminate services, which may include closing branches one or two days a week
- ☐ Reduce investment in library materials, including physical & digital items, increasing wait time and decreasing selection
- ☐ Cannot address deferred maintenance and facilities needs
- ☐ Abandon opportunities for library building projects

### FIND MORE INFORMATION

wcls.org/levy



### REGISTER TO VOTE

votewa.gov



For more information or to schedule a community presentation: [wclslevy@wcls.org](mailto:wclslevy@wcls.org)

## YOUR LIBRARY PROVIDES:

- **680,000+ items**, including books, eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming movies and music
- Over **2,200 free programs** each year for children, teens and adults
- High-speed **WiFi, printers, computers and tech** assistance
- Public meeting **spaces for community** gatherings
- Friendly, **knowledgeable staff to help** with research, services and reading suggestions
- Library **services for K-12 students and support for homeschool families**
- Delivery of **library materials for homebound community** members
- Innovative "Library of Things" to save you money. Borrow **board games, Discover Passes, WiFi hotspots, American Girl Dolls** and more

## WCLS SERVES PEOPLE ACROSS WHATCOM COUNTY WHO LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF BELLINGHAM

- **10 Library branches:** Blaine, Deming, Everson, Ferndale, Lummi Island, Lynden, Kendall, Point Roberts, Sudden Valley, Sumas
- **4 Bookmobile stops:** Glenhaven, Birch Bay, Wickersham, Lake Samish
- **Library Express locations:** Northwest Drive, Birch Bay (under construction)
- **Outreach services:** schools, senior centers, homebound patrons, Whatcom County Jail, events
- **Online** 24/7 [wcls.org](http://wcls.org)