ISSUE 6-2026

City of Sumas Newsletter



Here's what's happening in Sumas as we head into winter.

Utility Billing

Sewer averaging ended with the October billing cycle. November's bills, issued in early December, will once again calculate sewer charges from actual water use, and that method will continue through the March billing cycle.

Winter is a good time to watch your consumption closely. A sudden increase may point to a dripping faucet, running toilet, damaged water line, or another leak that can raise both water and sewer charges. If your usage looks unusual, investigate promptly or contact City Hall with billing questions.

Voyent Alert! and Winter Weather

Sumas uses Voyent Alert! for urgent conditions and everyday community notices, including flooding, road closures, and utility-related updates, such as utility disconnections due to past due utility bills.

Register at register.voyent-alert.us, download the app, or call City Hall for help signing up for text alerts.

Once registered, set your home address so that you will receive location specific notices, and check that your phone is set to receive all notifications.

Dates to Remember

City Council Meetings

November 23, 2026 @ 7pm
December 14, 2026 @ 7pm
December 28, 2026 @ 7pm
January 11, 2027 @ 7pm

City Hall Closures

Thanksgiving: November 26-27, 2026
Christmas: December 24-25, 2026
New Year's Day: January 1, 2027

The Sumas Chamber of Commerce brings

Christmas in the Park

December 3rd, 2026
@ 5:30pm, Sumas City Park

Tree Lighting, Santa & Treats, Wagon Rides, Foam Snow, Hot Cocoa, and Music!

Sumas City Hall
433 Cherry St
PO Box 9
Sumas, WA 98295
360-988-5711



Winter Readiness and City Maintenance

Winter City Maintenance

Our Public Works crew will continue preparing City property and right-of-ways for winter. Work may include trimming vegetation near streets, sidewalks, and utility lines, jetting storm lines, and cleaning catch basins before the wettest part of the season.
Property owners are responsible for keeping their own trees and shrubs trimmed. Sumas Municipal Code 8.32.030 provides additional guidance. Please watch for work zones and give the crew room to operate safely.

Keep Drainage Areas Clear

Leaves, grass clippings, branches, and other yard debris can block drainage systems. Dispose of yard waste properly in order to keep alleys, ditches, catch basins, and drainage areas clear to help water move during heavy rain.

Prepare for Fall Freezing

Freezing temperatures can damage plumbing and lead to expensive water loss. A few preventive steps now can reduce the risk:

Insulate outdoor spigots

Install an inexpensive cover before temperatures drop.

Drain hoses and irrigation lines

Disconnect hoses and remove standing water from seasonal lines.

Protect exposed pipes

Use pipe insulation or approved heat tape indoors and outside.

Know your shutoff location

Make sure the valve is accessible and keep a shovel handy if it is outdoors.

For more seasonal water-saving and freeze-prevention information, visit www.whatcomwateralliance.org.



Energy Assistance Programs

The City offers three programs that may help eligible households manage electric costs:

- Electric Base Fee Waiver
- Senior Electric Discount Program
- Electric Bill Donation Recipient Program

Review program descriptions, eligibility requirements, and application materials at www.cityofsumas.com/utility-rates-and-fees/.

Completed forms and verification documents may be submitted to the Utility Clerk at abons@cityofsumas.com.

Before freezing weather arrives

□ Cover spigots	□ Drain hoses	□ Insulate pipes	□ Locate shutoff
□ Clear drains	□ Check alerts	□ Watch usage	□ Report leaks

LIBRARY EVENTS

SUMAS LIBRARY • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Upcoming Events

Rivers of Resilience: Salmon Stories Film Festival
Powerful films explore the deep cultural, spiritual and ecological relationship between Indigenous communities and salmon. Find locations and times at wcls.org/events.
Friday, November 6-Saturday, November 28

Space is limited; registration is encouraged.

Open Book: A Festival for Readers
Open Book is a book lover's dream day with books, authors, book talks, readings, hands-on literary experiences and book swag. Mingle with fellow readers, writers and library fans. Visit wcls.org/openbook for schedule and updates.
Ferndale Events Center, Sunday, November 8
12:00 PM-5:00 PM

Recurring Events

Crafting Community
Drop in with your favorite arts and crafts.
Mondays, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Friends of the Sumas Library (FOSL) Meeting
For more information about the Friends, visit friendsofthesumaslibrary.org
1st Monday of the month, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Lunch Break Book Club
Take a break in your day and join us for a weekly theme-based book club. Choose a book to share based on the monthly theme.
NOVEMBER: Perspective
DECEMBER: Second Chance (read a book by an author that didn't land the first time)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 PM-1:30 PM
Not meeting 11/11

Sumas Writers' Group
Work side-by-side with other writers and crunch away at whatever writing projects you might have. Bring your draft and work away in companionable solitude.
Mondays, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Tech Help Hour/Hora de Ayuda Tecnológica
Learn about digital services or receive technological help. Assistance from a staff member in English or Spanish. / ¿Busca ayuda para el uso de su teléfono, computadora u otro dispositivo? Llame a la línea telefónica en Español al (360) 305-3638, deje un mensaje y le regresaremos su llamada para programar una cita individual de 30 minutos con nuestro personal.
Saturdays, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Sumas Book Club
A traditional book club — everybody reads and discusses the same book. Ask library staff for the current selection.
3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

whatcom county library system

SUMAS LIBRARY, 461 2nd STREET
VISIT WCLS.ORG/EVENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

LIBRARY EVENTS

SUMAS LIBRARY • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Teens (grades 6-12)

Teen Corps

We need teens with community spirit to help with our programming for kids. You'll pass out supplies and assist in the making and the doing.

Space is limited; registration is required.

Next Opportunity:

Community Thank You Notes

Saturday, November 14, 10:15 AM-11:45 AM

Let's Make Presents

Saturday, December 12, 10:15 AM-11:45 AM

Tweens (grades 4-7)

Tween Graphic Novel Book Group

Whether you are new to the genre or an avid reader, you are welcome to explore the amazing world of graphic novels with us.

Mondays, 4:00 PM-4:30 PM

Not meeting 12/21 and 12/28

Kids (grades K-5)

Community Thank You Notes

Create and share thank you notes with people who make the world a better place. We'll supply the cards, stamps and stuff for decorating. You bring the gratitude and good wishes.

Saturday, November 14, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Let's Make Presents

We'll have all the supplies and ideas you'll need to craft beautiful, meaningful gifts for the loved ones in your life.

Saturday, December 12, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Early Years (ages 2-6)

Community Helpers Storytime

A storytime featuring community helpers – like firefighters, humane society workers and more – sharing what they do to make our community better. If you're curious about which helpers will be coming on which days, check with library staff.

Monday, November 2, 10:30 AM-11:00 AM

Storytime

An open program that includes stories, rhymes and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation.

Mondays through December 7, 10:30 AM-11:00 AM

whatcom county library system

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