

Sumas Newsletter

A Note from the Mayor

Where's the Mayor?!

This is a question that has popped up on occasion so I contemplated on that question and decided that maybe I should share with you some of what I have been doing.

First, I will set the stage,

When I came into office, we had just realized the worst flooding disaster in our history. There was no City Hall, no council chambers, 80% of the homes were uninhabitable; our city was a mess. A trailer was brought in to act as City Hall for a time and I was sworn in as Mayor amidst the office staffs work area. A great way to start don't you think?

In addition to this I, not unlike many of you, experienced loss of property; fortunately the main floor of my home was elevated high enough I could still occupy it. But everything else received damage some of it a total loss. The rest, well the end remains to be seen. My business office got flooded and of course the Church I attended did as well. But when I think back, I am so thankful there was no loss of life.

So here I was a new Mayor learning the ropes and trying to piece back together my business and home just like many of you.

Until June I was working out of my home as Mayor and running my business. Notice how I put Mayor first? Yes, most of my time during the days was spent learning my job as Mayor and putting in hundreds of hours in meetings fighting for Sumas to resolve the flooding issue and the impacts of them. I rose early in the mornings and worked late into the nights to perform my duties as Mayor and keep my livelihood afloat. It wasn't until much later in the year that I began any kind of repair or work on my own home to bring it back to some kind of normal and my wife and I are still in that process. I had a laugh recently when I looked at my Microsoft calendar and it advised me, I had 2 hours today to get my work done because of the meetings I had to participate in.

During this time, and ongoing still, I spend much of my time in meetings and discussions regarding the Future of Sumas and its plight such as:

Participating in meetings and field trips with the other Mayors, County Executive and representatives, the DNR, Dept of Ecology, Fish and wildlife, the Tribes, Farmers and many more.

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I have had meetings with the Governor, Senator Cantwell, Rep DelBene, all our local senators and representatives.

I participated in meetings with our Canadian friends; I went to Canada for a presentation of their system and issues, even got to see how the Barrow town pump stations operate and listened to their close call scenario during the event of 2021.

I participated in another fieldtrip where the County and the small cities hosted the Canadians, and we showed them around so to speak.

I testified to the Canadian parliament regarding our situation and the impacts we realized.

In addition to all this,

We have been in several meetings with the local ditching districts to assist them in their responsibilities.

We applied for and received a grant to further enhance our new bleachers and Rodeo grounds.

We have hired our own LDRM (Local Disaster Recovery Manager) through the States EMD funding. This person will work with you and the businesses to assist in meeting some of the needs.

We hosted a meeting with the Dept of Health to help reach out to those of you that need assurance that how you are feeling then and now is normal after a disaster occurs.

Our area received a CDBG-DR (grant) of \$14.9 M for unmet needs in which we provided an action list and hosted an outreach meeting with the Dept of Commerce to listen to you and learn what your needs are.

I am a member of the Business Recovery Task Force and while on the face of things it may look like someone else is doing the work to get funding and assistance, I am right there pushing to make it happen petitioning for the businesses here.

There is so much more I could state here but that would turn this letter into a book.

Regarding Flooding,

As time has gone on and despite all the meetings, all the calls, all the pleas, not much has changed especially for this flood season. So, a lot of the focus has changed to preparation in the event we may or may not have another flood.

We have arranged for the Army Corp of engineers to dispatch their sand bagging machine along with sandbags and some personnel to assist us if needed.

We have established an alert system for our citizens, 'Voyent Alert' so you are informed of what action(s) to take if necessary. I strongly encourage you to sign up for the free service.

Along with that we have established 'Get ready' 'Get set' 'Go!' protocol in coordination with the Sumas Police and Fire Departments which we have mailed out to all.

If you need this information, it is on the City's website located in the 'flood information' link.

So, Where's the Mayor? He is right here working mostly behind the scenes to take care of the City and it's Citizens. Doing what he can to make things better and rebuild our City. Doing what he can to protect and ready to take necessary action if needed to protect.

Lastly, If you need to know things or need assurance please ask. The best way to contact me is through email and I will do my best to get the answers you need. My email is bbosch@cityofsumas.com . It is also listed on the website under contacts.

-Bruce Bosch, Mayor

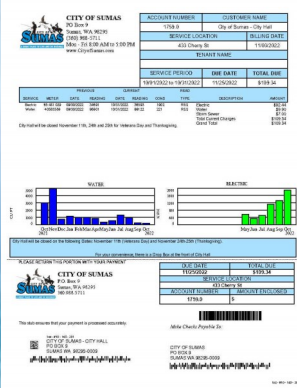
UPDATES:

UTILITY BILLING

A quick reminder: Sewer averages end with the October billing cycle. The November bills (the bills issued in December) will bill your sewer based on your actual water usage through the April bill cycle. This is a good time to keep a close eye on your water consumption as it will drastically affect your sewer charges. If you notice that your water consumption has a sudden increase, you may have a water leak. Anything from leaking faucets, running toilets and larger leaks can greatly affect your sewer bill.

In the month of October we rolled out our new utility invoices. We appreciate your patience as we navigate our way through the “glitches” that have occurred with the graphs. On your next bill, you should notice that we now are able to show both the water and electric graphs, which should help individuals track their usage for the last 12 months. However, one of the “glitches” with the water graph is that the data prior to May 2022 is not accurate. We are working on resolving this issue, but in the meantime just know that the water graph, from May going forward is correct.

Another exciting feature we are rolling out in December is a new online platform, which will allow for paperless billing, auto-pay and a wider range of online payment options. You can still choose to have your bill mailed to you if it suits you better.



CITY PROJECTS

Completed Projects:

- Clean ditches on Kneuman Road
- New Street Lights (Washington Ave, Michell St, Gough St, Cornerstone Dr & Second St)
- Road Repairs (paint & fill potholes)
 - Retention pond cleanout
 - Successful Flood Awareness Day
 - Trim trees on Sumas Ave
 - New walking trail
- Event Center Phase 1—new grandstands & new bathrooms
- New weather station—available through www.cityofsumas.com →
 - W. Front St—bridge approach repair
 - W. Front St & Barbo Rd— railroad crossing repairs



On-Going Projects:

- Relocate playground to the empty lot beside the library
 - Camera storm drains
- Event Center Phase 2—side bleachers , announcer booth, & lighting
 - W Front St—crack seal

Important Dates:

November 11—Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)	December 5—Santa in the Park
November 14—Council Meeting 7PM	December 12—Council Meeting 7 PM
November 19—Celebration of Our Communities 2 PM (Sumas Elementary School)	December 26—Christmas Observed (City Hall Closed)
November 24-25—Thanksgiving Holiday (City Hall Closed)	December 27—Council Meeting (Time TBA)
November 28—Council Meeting 7 PM	



Sumas Library

451 2nd Street 360-988-2501
Bookmobile: Fridays 10am – 2pm

The library remains closed from the November 2021 flooding, but library services are still available to our Sumas patrons! The bookmobile is at the Sumas Library 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. every Friday 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. We also continue to do provide pickup of requested materials in Sumas. To get started, select Sumas as your pickup location, and start requesting some items! Items returned in the blue library bin in the parking lot are picked up twice weekly, and our free WiFi service is available 24/7 from the parking lot.



We are working closely with city officials to coordinate the library building's flood mitigation and renovations with the city's other flood-related projects. Preliminary work on the outside of the Sumas Library building is underway. Plants have been removed to make way for a cement pad in order to move the return bin closer to the library entrance. Electrical work will allow for the installation of a scanning device for access to the future Library Express in the foyer. The Library Express will allow patrons to pick up items even when the library is not open. New carpeting and shelving are on the way. The library collection is ready to be returned to the shelves, and staff are eager to greet and help patrons.



A HUGE thank you to everyone who has donated to the Whatcom County Library Foundation's Sumas Library Recovery Fund. Together we've raised \$35,000 so far! On Sept. 9, the Foundation held its annual fundraiser gala, Branch Out. Sumas Library manager Paul Fullner attended to receive the giant check on behalf of Sumas Library and the Whatcom County Library System. Donations — from all over the region — will help fill the gap for building repairs, equipment and collection materials not covered by insurance. It's not too late to give. Gifts are still being accepted at wcls.org/donation-form-sumas/.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS @ WCLS

Visit wcls.com/events to find additional information and programs

Sumas Book Group Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month. Nov. 19th & Dec. 17th
Contact the Everson Library at 360-966-5100 for more information.

Wildlife Photography From a Designer's Perspective Sat. Nov. 5th at North Forth branch, Sat. Nov. 19th at Lynden branch.

Read & Share *Think Black* by Clyde Ford. Multiple author events – all via Zoom!

Storytimes: Multiple times per week at other branches or online!

History series at Lynden Library, teen programs, book groups & more!