



CITY OF SUMAS NEWSLETTER

May/June 2023

DATES TO REMEMBER

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 8th and 22nd @ 7 pm

June 12th and 19th @ 7 pm

FREE CHIPPER SERVICE

May 19th 10 am to 12 pm

May 20th 9 am to 11 am

June 16th 10 am to 12 pm

June 17th 9 am to 11 am

CITY HALL CLOSURES

May 29th – Memorial Day

June 19th - Juneteenth

CITY SPRAY PARK

Open Memorial Day Weekend



SUMAS SENIOR CENTER GRAND OPENING



Monday, May 8th 10:00am – 12:00pm

Stop by for coffee, donuts, and conversation, to celebrate the grand opening of the Sumas Senior Center.

Hope to see you there!

SUMAS COMMUNITY DAYS



Sumas Community Days are scheduled for June 23-24, 2023, and will be brought to you by the Sumas Chamber of Commerce.

Parade Applications and Vendor sign-ups are available on the Sumas Chamber Facebook page or at www.sumaschamber.com

Check the Sumas Chamber website for all upcoming Chamber events!

UTILITY BUDGET PLAN

The City offers an electric utility budget plan for any resident interested.

The budget payment is calculated based on the residents' previous 12 months electric usage plus 10%. If interested, notify Mollie at mbost@cityofsumas.com prior to May 26th. A proposed budget plan will be sent, and if the resident would like to move forward, the first payment will begin with the May 2023 usage bill, and will be billed monthly through March 2024. April 2024 is the month that the entire account will be reconciled, and the April bill will either include a credit, or debit. If at any time, the resident decides to cancel the budget plan, any outstanding balances will be due immediately.

SUMMER SEWER AVERAGES

During the months of April – October, sewer charges are billed based on the average water usage during the winter months (November – March).

As of our April billing cycle, we are on Sewer averages. Sewer rates are based on water usage. The sewer cost will never be higher than the average usage in winter. That means the sewer charges won't increase if using water to fill pools, water lawns/flowers, or wash vehicles April through October.

MOWING SEASON

Please maintain grass and weeds as per Sumas Municipal Code 8.32.

As we're all out mowing and working in yards, please be sure to clean up and dispose of yard waste properly. Keeping our sidewalks and roads clear of grass.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS (a.k.a. Birthday Calendars)

It's time to submit birthdays and anniversaries to be included in the 2024 Community Calendar.

Sumas publishes a Community Calendar each year. These calendars include the birthdays and anniversaries of community members. If you would like to have any dates added, or removed, please let us know by July 31st. Forms are available at City Hall, or at cityofsumas.com, to submit information. Advertising space is also available for a fee. Please use the same forms to submit this information.

2023 Community Calendars are still available for \$5 at City Hall.

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, do not leave bags on the ground/sidewalk. We want to keep all sidewalks/walkways clear for all to enjoy!

OUTDOOR BURNING

Outdoor burning is prohibited within City limits, except for recreational fires in designated fire pits.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is open, located near Ballfields 3 & 4, off Hovel Rd., and will be available until November 1st.

Please keep in mind planting areas are first come, first serve; you must mark your own areas. Please pick up any garbage/weeds and dispose of them properly.

By the end of October, please pick up all of your garden supplies. In the first week of November the City will dispose of any left-over items from the gardens.

VACATION WATCH

Going 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.



WANTED

Volunteers Wanted!

The Sumas Museum is looking for help with:

Landscaping

Cleaning

Setting up Exhibits

Researching

Greeting visitors

To volunteer, call or text 360-319-4283 or e-mail info@sumashistory.org

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Greetings,

There's just something about Springtime. Maybe it's the months and months (and months) of cold and rain we so humbly suffer here in the great Northwest. Maybe it's that as we look around and see signs of new life popping up everywhere, it's a hope realized. Whatever the reason, we welcome Spring whole-heartedly. Make it a great one!

Just want to give you a few updates:

The City and Crew have been busy upgrading the Rodeo Grounds with some additional seating, working on lighting, and improvements to the announcement tower. This is Phase 2, being completed with funds received in a grant from the State with assistance from our local legislators.

Regarding the Nooksack river; as you know, there have been many conversations and meetings over the past 16 months. While action has been very slow, I am happy to say that collectively the leaders of the small cities, the County, and the Nooksack and Lummi tribes, are getting on the same page of taking action to resolve the issues at the Everson overflow. The science of what happened in November of 2021 has finally come in, so we've been able to gain clarity on what the River has done, and is doing. In that particular event, they speculate that Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas experienced a 200-year flood event, while the areas downstream experienced a 50-year flood event. Naturally this causes alarm for most, including myself, which calls for urgent action. Of which, as I stated earlier, is what is occurring. We hope at a minimum that this action will take place at the overflow to equalize it, even if it is a temporary measure before the next flood season, until permanent fixes are in place. I or staff will continue to update you as developments occur.

I will close with this thought:

I have lived in Sumas most of my life now and have observed and experienced that when this community comes together for a cause or a need, it really pulls together. Our community needs you, whether it is the neighbor next door, a local business that could use your support, or a local event that needs your volunteer time. Becoming involved with our youth, helping the elderly, etc., the list goes on. All these things bring us closer together and help to strengthen us in unity, because we are doing it together and want the best for each other.

Enjoy,

Bruce Bosch

Mayor

Greetings from the Sumas Library! It's been so much fun to welcome so many of you back to the library and we're really enjoying reconnecting with old friends and new neighbors.

We're super excited to be offering **library programs** again. Our weekly Storytimes and monthly Teen Club are growing. Author and former Sumas resident Karl Peterson had a solid turnout as he shared from his book [Reformed: Confession of a Preacher's Kid](#), which is his memoir of growing up in a conservative Dutch Reformed community here in Sumas. Our faithful book club kept meeting the whole time the building was closed for repairs, but they're thrilled to be meeting back in the library again.



Author Karl Peterson shares stories from his Sumas-area memoir

Summer is just around the corner, and that means it's time to start thinking about **Summer Reading**. We'll have all-ages Summer Reading cards available at the library around June 1st, and there are all kinds of fun activities planned, including our Summer Reading Kickoff celebration on June 26th, children's craft days and a teen art camp event in July, a [Make It: Craft Fair](#) where kids can sell their handmade crafts and treats on July 24th, and even a visit from a palatero man (think delicious icy Mexican treats!) in August. We'll say more about those events in the next newsletter.

The Friends of the Sumas Library have also gotten a grant to offer "**Meet Me at the Movies**" again this summer. Dates and details are still being worked out, so talk to a friendly library staff person or keep an eye on the [Sumas Library Facebook page](#) for future updates.



Piles of asphalt shingles await installation on the Community Center roof

The Sumas Community Center (which houses the Library and Senior Center) is getting some **roof work** done in the next few weeks. We don't expect to close, but it will be a little noisier around here than usual. If we do need to close at all, we'll update [wcls.org](#) and our Facebook page.

Have you tried out the **Library Express** in the Sumas Community Center foyer yet? The Library isn't open every day, so the Library Express allows you to pick up your holds and browse a small collection of other library

items to check out. Use your library card at the outdoor scanner to open the door, then use the self-checkout kiosk to check out your items. It's self-serve, super easy, and we're happy to walk you through how it works. Hours for the Library Express are 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM daily.

Upcoming Programs at Sumas Library

For a complete listing of events at all branches visit wcls.org/events

SUMAS STORYTIME: For ages 2-6, 30 minutes. An open program that includes stories, rhymes, and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation. Mondays, 10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M., thru May 15

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 May, it's an open discussion. For June, group members will read [*A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of A Faith*](#) by Timothy Egan. Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10 A.M. May 20th & June 17th

SUMAS TEEN CLUB: Hang out with other teens and have fun IRL. Each month we will have a new project that is either art, craft, literary or STEM-related. All materials and snacks are provided. Can't make it at the start time? No problem! Come when you can! For grades 6-12. Monthly on the 4th Monday at 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M., thru May 22.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF: Join us for this exclusive, all-day kickoff celebration! We will be distributing Summer Reading books to all youth, offering fun crafts for the whole family, and promoting our exciting slate of in-person programs happening this Summer. Drop in for a quick hello or stay awhile, we can't wait to see you there. Can't make it to the Sumas kickoff day? No sweat. Kickoff events will happen at all branches through the week – check with library staff to find out exact dates! Monday, June 26th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.