

# CITY OF SUMAS NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 – 2024

## IMPORTANT DATES

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm

### FREE CHIPPER SERVICE

April 19<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

April 20<sup>th</sup> 9am to 11 am

### CITY HALL CLOSURES

Good Friday: March 29, 2024

### SPLASH PAD

Opening mid-May, date TBD,  
stay tuned!

### SUMAS CITY HALL

433 Cherry Street

P.O. Box 9

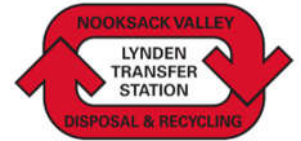
Sumas, WA 98295

Phone: 360.988.5711

Non-Emergency Police Dispatch:  
360.676.6911

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Clean Up Day

April 6<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Spring Clean Up Day!



Nooksack Valley Disposal is sponsoring the Spring clean-up day on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., located behind City Hall.

Nooksack Valley Disposal staff will be available to help residents unload their bulky items, appliances, furniture, scrap metal, and branches behind City Hall.

There will be a charge from Nooksack Valley Disposal to cover the cost of disposal.

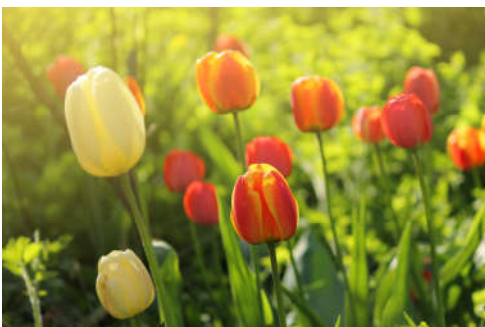
Seniors and those with physical disabilities may call Nooksack Valley Disposal at 360-354-3400 for bulky item pick-up outside of their residences.

## NOTICE OF CHANGE TO UTILITY BILLING PROCESS

The Late Notice mailer will be the only notice received before shut-offs. Hang tags will no longer be delivered as a reminder.

Changes are coming to the utility billing process, per ordinance #1813. Bills will still always be due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. However, beginning April 2024, the Late Notice mailer that goes out on the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the next business day), will be the only notice before utility shut-offs. Here's what can be expected:

- A Late Notice will go out as of 11am on the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the next business day) to any delinquent accounts.
- Any accounts still delinquent as of 11am on the last business day of the month, will have a \$5 penalty added to the account.
- If any accounts are still delinquent as of 11am on the second Tuesday after the penalty date, the electrical service will be shut off. Hang tags will no longer be hung on the door the day before as a reminder.
- Service will be restored after the delinquent amount, late fee, and a reconnect fee are paid in full.



# SUMAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## Volunteer Opportunities!

The Sumas Historical Society and Museum are looking for volunteers – there are lots of opportunities to help. Greet visitors, fundraise, exhibits, research, landscaping, special events and projects! Contact [info@sumashistory.org](mailto:info@sumashistory.org) to find out how you can volunteer!



## LAWN AND YARD CARE

Grass, trees, bushes, and shrubs should be maintained and follow the Sumas Municipal code.

The Sumas Municipal Code is available at [cityofsumas.com](http://cityofsumas.com) for reference regarding yard maintenance. References include Chapter 20.57 LANDSCAPING, Chapter 5.16 VEGETATION CONTROL, and Chapter 8.32 PUBLIC NUISANCES.



Violations of the code will be penalized (8.32.090)

A few highlights from the Code to watch for:

Vegetation should not overhang low over sidewalks or streets (8.32.030 D)

Vines and plants should not grow on streets, hydrants, poles, or anything used for fire protection purposes so that they are easy to see and use (8.32.030 E)

Vines, plants, etc. should not interfere with the light from streetlamps (8.32.030 E)

Unused refrigerators, appliances, etc. should not be left anywhere exposed or accessible to children (8.32.030 J)

Grass and/or weeds in a nonagricultural use must be kept below twelve inches in height (8.32.030 M)

Blackberry vines should not overgrow any area (8.32.030 O)

All cans, bottles, glass, ashes, scraps, broken stone, etc. must be kept in appropriate receptacles (8.32.030 T)

Trash, rags, boxes, straw, lumber, scrap iron, pipes, etc. should be neatly piled and tidy (8.32.030 U)

Repair of any motor vehicle of any kind may not be made on public streets, alleys, or property (8.32.030 X)

Nooksack Valley Disposal & Recycling offers curbside collection of yard debris, including grass clippings, compostable papers and food scraps. Visit [www.nvd-inc.com/yard-food-waste](http://www.nvd-inc.com/yard-food-waste) for more information.

## FREE CHIPPER SERVICE

Free chipper service the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday and Saturday of each month, starting in April through the Fall.

Bring your branches to be chipped to the dead-end of Harrison Avenue.

Starting in April through the Fall, the chipper will be running the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 10 am to 12 pm, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month 9 am to approximately 11 am.



## FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE

Flood recovery efforts are still very much a part of our daily lives for the City of Sumas. The City has been working very closely with FEMA as well as the State Military Department to identify “projects” to ensure that our City reaches full restoration.

During 2023 FEMA obligated over \$3.5 Million Dollars to flood damage related projects. Some of the funding was obligated for reimbursement of project expenditures incurred by the City in the immediate flood response efforts. The remaining funds received were obligated towards 12 sewer line projects that were fully completed in 2023, and 13 other obligated projects that are still on our “to-do” list. Each project is different, each project has its own time frame, and each project has its own unique challenges. When and if more damage is identified, new projects are created, causing our project list to grow and shift.

As we wade our way into 2024, we have optimistically identified 10 A&E Only projects that we are hoping to get well underway before the year-end. These projects include:

- Sumas Stormwater Outfall in the Sumas River
- City Well Access Bridge
- City Well Transmission Line
- W. Third St Culvert & Headwall
- Hovel road Culvert Location 1-Twin 60-Inch CMP
- Hovel Road Culverts
- Arthurs Way (Pending Obligation)
- Victoria Ct (Pending Obligation)
- Railroad Ave & First St (Pending Obligation)
- Second St Roadway (Pending Obligation)

“A&E Only” means that architecture and engineering are the only elements that will be addressed within the specific project. Actual construction will need to be developed in a separate project.

Although the road to recovery is often time consuming and difficult we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.





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...**

with your free library card you can access the Cascadia Daily News, Bellingham Herald and many other state and local newspapers online for free? Talk to a staff person or visit

<https://www.wcls.org/newsbank/>



Bingo is back! Read on for what the The Friends of Sumas Library (FOSL) are organizing and what they have purchase for Sumas residents to use at the library.

- Spring Cleaning Bingo - Friday, April 5, 6:30 P.M.

Attendees are asked to bring a new, unopened cleaning product (dish soap, laundry detergent, hand sanitizer, cleaning spray, dust cleaner, etc.) or item used in cleaning (garbage bags, cloths, paper towels, etc.). Items received will be given away as prizes. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with games beginning at 6:30 p.m. Location still to be determined. Refreshment will be available for purchase.

- Sumas Community Clean Up Day - Saturday, April 6, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Come help clean up the community by picking up garbage throughout town. This is open to all community members – help out as for as long as you can, it doesn't need to be the entire time. FOSL will provide coffee and breakfast treats to all community clean-up volunteers, as well as garbage bags and disposable gloves. Meet behind City Hall, wear bright colors, and prepare for rain!
- Keep an eye on your mailboxes for the upcoming Sumas Library coloring contest courtesy of the Friends of Sumas Library. A coloring sheet will be mailed to each household in Sumas, with the contest open for all ages (including adults!). Cash prizes awarded in each age group. Return your entry in-person to a Sumas Library staff person. Additional coloring sheets available in-person at the Sumas Library.

The Friends of Sumas Library have purchased a light therapy lamp for the Sumas Library. Come read the Lynden Tribune or your favorite magazine while basking in the glow. This is only available for use in the library, but the Bellingham Public Library does have light therapy lamps available to check out (which are also available to WCLS patrons). They are a popular item, so place your request for one soon! [Light Therapy Lamp | Whatcom County Library System | BiblioCommons](#)

How digital literate are you? Find tips on how to not get scammed, take a digital literacy quiz, and learn about additional resources on digital literacy on the WCLS webpage at <https://www.wcls.org/digital-literacy/>.

# Upcoming Programs and Events at Sumas Library

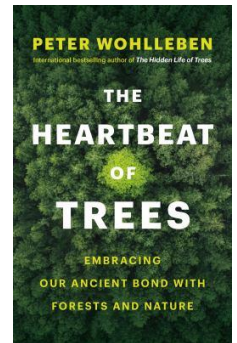
For a complete listing of programs and events at all WCLS branches visit [wcls.org/events](http://wcls.org/events)

**SUMAS STORYTIME:** For ages 2-6. An open program that includes stories, rhymes, and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation. Mondays, January 22 – May 13. 10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

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

**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. Monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, February - May. 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**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 March, it's Member's Choice open discussion. For April, attendees should read The Heartbeat of Trees: Embracing Our Ancient Bond with Forests and Nature by Peter Wohlleben. Stop by the library to pick up your copy anytime! Monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. 10 A.M. – 11 A.M.

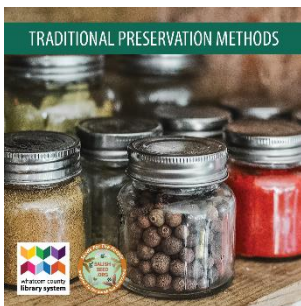


**LOL 101 – JOKES FOR KIDS:** Why don't eggs tell jokes? They'd crack each other up! Come out to the library to learn about how to write hilarious jokes, and how to tell them with side-splitting style. We'll dig into the elements of what makes a good joke, figure out how to milk them for big laughs and finish with a comedy club open mic. Come to practice or just guffaw. For grades K – 5. Saturday, 23, 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.



**THE HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN BY CARL CROUSE:** Carl Crouse, author of The Waters are Rising, will share stories and anecdotes from his new book, The Heavenly Mountain: Fifty Years of Adventures on Mt. Baker and the Cascade Mountains. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing at the event. Additional events held at the Everson Library (Sat, March 23 2:00 P.M – 3:00 P.M.) and the Sumas Historical Society & Museum (Sat., March 16 1:00 P.M – 3:00 P.M) Sumas event is Saturday, March 30, 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

**WHOLE ROUND EARTH:** To celebrate Earth Day, we'll work on a collaborative two-dimensional art project. Each person will decorate one piece of the planet, and we'll assemble them to reveal an earth that belongs to everyone! For grades K – 5. Saturday, April 6, 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



## TRADITIONAL PRESERVATION METHODS WITH CELT SCHIRA:

Preserve foods with vinegar, drying, preserving in oil and alcohol, cold storage and lactic fermentation. Make your own teas, condiments, snacks and traditional ingredients from fresh, local food. Preserve the excess from your garden. Make favorites such as hot sauce, sauerkraut, dried fruits and posole. Saturday, April 13, 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

**A SALMON'S JOURNEY:** Celebrate the return of the Chinook salmon to the Nooksack River as we read a Tlingit version of the story Shanyaak'utlaax/Salmon Boy illustrated by 2021

Caldecott winner and Tlingit/Haida artist Michaela Goade. After the story, we will color and cut out the 5 local species of salmon to make a collage or mobile. We look forward to learning and creating with you! All materials provided. For grades K – 5. Saturday, May 4, 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.