



REPORT TO TAXPAYERS 2008

Mission

to provide needed and valued services that promote our sense of community

Vision

to set the standard of excellence for a progressive small city

Values

We serve with respect and integrity.

We are responsive and accountable.

We are collaborative and professional.

We are innovative and visionary.

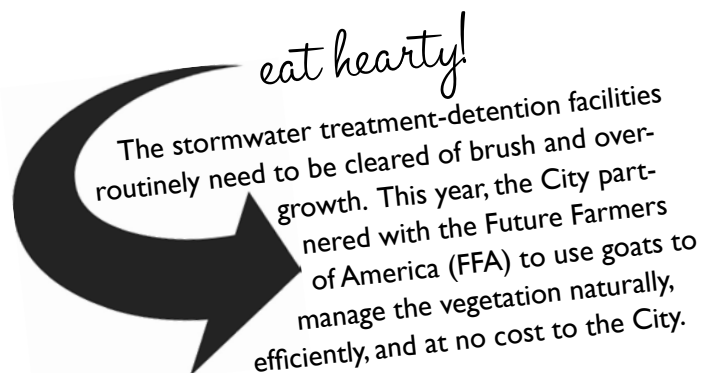
2008 was a tough year, but your City got through without using any of its reserve funds. The great thing is that we saved money while still accomplishing a lot of work and providing the services you need and value. The list below barely scrapes the surface and gives you just the highlights of a year's worth of work.

This coming year will be another tough one. People just aren't buying cars or goods to bring in sales tax revenue. And, I agree with and admire the City Council's decision to not raise your property taxes even though we have one of the lowest rates in the state.

Instead, we're going to continue to find efficiencies and do more with less. But, that can only go so far. This year, you will see some things, such as hanging baskets, set aside for now. We love these programs, but we simply can't afford them. They are not cut forever; rather, we plan on tightening our belt to get through these tough times while getting ready to bring back these great programs when times get better--and they will get better.

Please review some of the highlights of 2008 listed here, and join me in working together to get through tough times so that we come out the other end efficient and effective.

Dave Enslow
Mayor Dave Enslow



Priority: Safe and efficient transportation system.

Worked with Pierce Transit and Pierce County to bring transit service to industrial area, starting Feb '09.

Participated in regional traffic efforts to reduce speed, remove impaired drivers, and enforce commercial vehicle laws.

Updated ordinances and signs to better enforce truck routes.

Obtained computer mapping equipment to diagram traffic accidents and major crime scenes to aid in prosecution.

Joined other agencies to investigate and prosecute auto theft.

Chip sealed and fog coated eight blocks of City streets.

Swept streets weekly and annually repainted street markings.

Inspected and maintained signs and signals on a regular basis.

Replaced over 80 sewer, storm, and water castings on 142nd, Tacoma, and Fryar.

Installed, replaced or repaired 250 street signs.

Placed 17 tons (34,000 lbs.) of pot hole mix...one shovelful at a time.

Completed construction of Valley Avenue between Washington Street and Elm Street on time and within budget.

Made progress in acquiring right-of-way for Stewart Road.

Substantially completed design for the Traffic Ave/Main St project.

Submitted sections of Sumner trail system for State grants.

Priority: Protection of water, open spaces, and other natural resources.

Completed retro-fitting diesel equipment as part of a grant from the Department of Ecology.

Purchased the first hybrid piece of equipment.

Installed new picnic table and benches at Rainier View Park.

Planted over 50 trees.

Coordinated the planting of nut trees along the 24th St Trail.

Sumner Meadows Golf Course partnered with Arts Commission for an outdoor family movie night.

Installed new irrigation system at the cemetery.

Supported the new Community Garden program with staff resources, equipment and machinery.

Replaced over 20 water leaks, mostly involving services, throughout the distribution system.

Began a comprehensive program to monitor grease traps and oil water separators to eliminate grease blockages.

Studied future sewer capacity needs for Sumner and Bonney Lake to begin planning and designing an expansion of the Sumner Wastewater Treatment Facility.

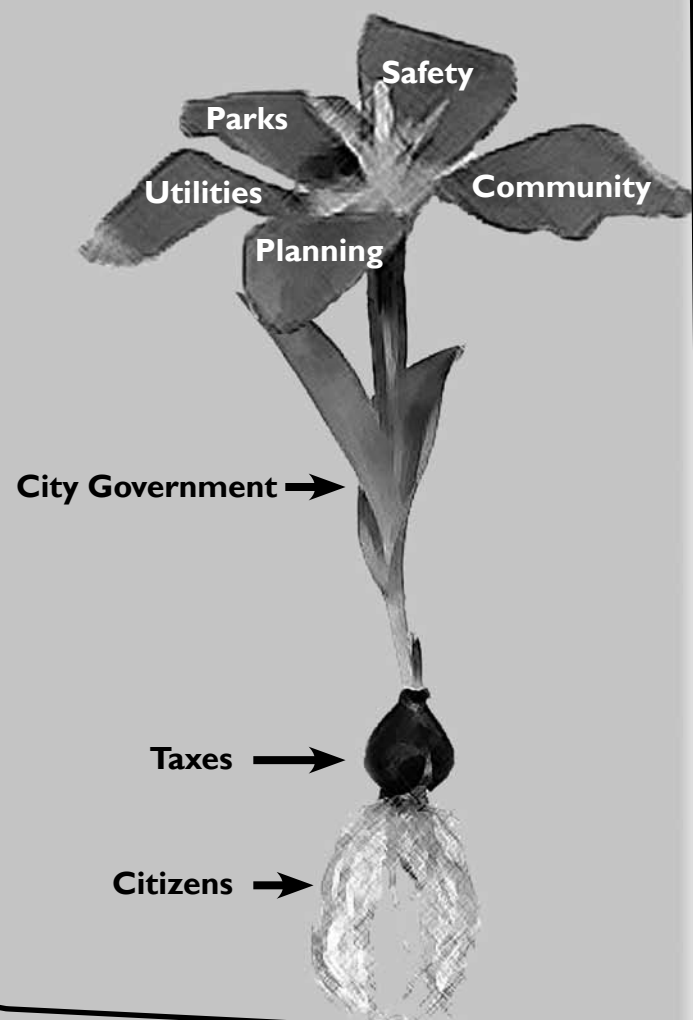
Set up monitoring program for the Low Impact Development on 153rd Avenue.

Regularly cleaned and maintained catch basins, treatment-detention ponds, and Salmon Creek.

City Clerk began sending Council packets out electronically to save on paper and postage.

Growing a healthy city

The citizens are the roots of any community. Together, you pay taxes that fund your City government. Your elected officials and City staff use your money to provide you with the services you need, the accomplishments of a City.



Priority: Long-range financial stability to provide a balance of City services.

Managed election for fire annexation, which 90% of Sumner voters approved.

Created in-house and launched the "Come on in" branding campaign for community's economic development.

Continued to work on economic development in partnership with Pierce County, Sumner Downtown Association, and Economic Development Board.

Streamlined fuel accounts.

Incorporated and launched new FilePro system for building and archiving Council agendas and minutes.

Reformatted City newsletter to save \$1100 per issue.

Recruited and hired a public works director, municipal judge, deputy police chief and seven other positions.

Established procedures to recover costs when City property is damaged by private parties, over \$5,000 collected.

Implemented the first biennial budget for 2009-2010.

Developed Financial and Budget Policies that serve as the foundation for the City's financial operations.

Reduced the number of outstanding utility accounts.

Implemented an on-line system for business licenses that increased compliance with City codes by 60%.

Refinanced general obligation debt and revenue back debt to save \$450,000 over the remaining life of the bonds.

Reorganized Animal Control to increase effectiveness and provide efficiencies of service.

Improved court's caseflow management in order to reduce staff work and eliminate one open part-time position.

Reduced postage costs by court sending out only delinquent notices rather than both compliant and delinquent notices.

Initiated convenient Saturday passport processing.

Implemented email archiving system that streamlines City's responses to public records requests

Implemented a virtual server and virtual machines that reduce the need to purchase servers for financial and energy savings.

Modified phone system warranty to save over \$6,000 per year.

Extended warranties on laptops to reduce replacement costs.

Obtained grant funding to explore the possibility of designating the industrial area a "Manufacturing / Industrial Center" to increase competitiveness for grants.

Reworked the permit process to focus more on customer service.

getting an A+
Standard and Poors upgraded Sumner's bond rating from A to A+, based on many factors, including the soundness of the City's management practices. It's hard for a small city to get an A+, and not only is it an honor, but it saves the City money when it refinances.

Priority: Enhance community character.

Received recognition from Governor Gregoire as a Smart City with the Smart Partnership Award.

Reorganized the police department with emphasis on patrol.

Police department participated as a pilot site for a national emphasis on Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims.

Police hosted Citizens Academy to let citizens experience the internal workings of the police department.

Continued to reestablish the SK8 Park as a safe place by installing an internet-based camera acquired through grant funding.

Surveyed citizens who needed police assistance with 90% of those responding rating service above average or excellent.

Volunteers served 3903 hours supporting enforcement efforts.

Continued to provide drug resistance education to schools.

Continued coordination with school security and administration to provide safe environment for children.

Continued participation on regional teams for SWAT and major crimes.

Worked with adjacent Valley Avenue property owners to maintain planter strips.

Built a sense of community by conducting public workshops for new design guidelines, participating in youth forums at schools, supporting Sumner Downtown Association's activities.

Brought the City Council a new noise ordinance that established measurable decibel standards to aid the City in dealing with noise problems.

Created a historic preservation program to establish a local historic register for tax incentives and grant funds that reduce the cost of restoring the community's most treasured buildings.

Completed a major improvement of City's Design Guidelines to clarify the design review process.

Coordinated the Arts Commission, Planning Commission, Design Commission, and Senior Center Board for such efforts as Music Off Main and Pierce County Reads.

Improved Senior Center offerings to include a computer center and computer classes.

have reviews
Sometimes, it takes outsiders to remind us what we have. Here are some things the media said about Sumner in 2008:

"Sumner so completely embodies the nostalgic ideals of small-town America, it's hard to stay long without welling up." —The Seattle Times

"...the best definition of a 'small town' that the Northwest has to offer." —South Sound Magazine

"Even when there isn't a parade, Sumner's vibrant downtown bustles with car shows, arts and craft sales, concerts, wine walks, shoppers and a heart-tugging sense of community connection." —The Seattle Times,

by the numbers

POLICE

Responded to 4690 calls

Arrested 681 suspects

Removed 75 impaired drivers from our roadways

Answered 13,452 emergency 911 calls

Conducted 4160 traffic stops including emphases on speed and violation of truck routes

Seized \$8,450 in funds from criminal activity

Processed evidence for 1416 criminal cases

Average call response time from dispatch to arrival on scene for all calls: 4 min 45 seconds

PLUS animal control

Served 29,283 customers

Reunited 322 lost pets with owners

Adopted 715 pets to new homes

PUBLIC WORKS

Responded to over 400 requests for services and 750 requests for utility locates.

Replaced approximately 700 water meters with new touch tone or radio transmission meters as part of a multi-year program to upgrade all water meters in the system.

PERMITS

215 building permits through Nov. 2008 (4% up from the full year of 2007)

99 fire permits (up 3% from 2007)

315 planning permits (up 10.5% from 2007)

MUNICIPAL COURT

Processed 3088 filings, up 10% from 2007.

Processed 745 passport applications.

Come on in

Remember, this is *your* city. There are many ways in 2009 to give your suggestions, participate, learn more and have fun being part of Sumner:

Attend Sumner University on March 3 & 10.

Have dinner at the Community Summit on March 26 to join in discussions on a variety of topics.

Join the Police's Citizens Academy this spring.

Become a police volunteer.

Become a commissioner, maybe on the brand new Historic Preservation Commission.

Watch Council meetings live or on TV.

Check the website regularly at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.