



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ISSUE 46

CITY OF SUMNER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



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



Enhance community character



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



Safe and efficient transportation system

2007 Budget Follows Priorities, Sets Course for Future

On December 4, the City Council passed the 2007 budget. However, this was just the ending of a fascinating process.

How We Got Here

The Council begins the budget process at their retreats in June. There, they work together to decide what the upcoming strategic priorities are for the City, as listed to the left.

These priorities tell the employees where to focus money. Like any budget, there is more that the City would

like to do than it can afford, so it has to determine, based on the priorities, what will be funded and what won't.

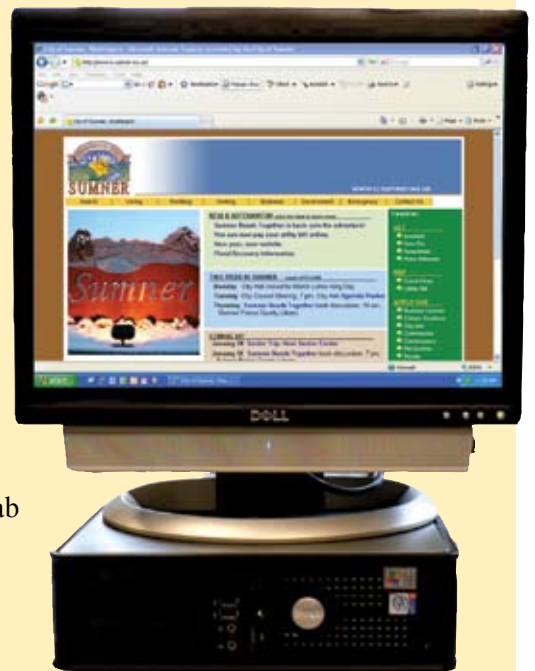
Employees draw up a draft budget based on funding the Council's priorities plus any assumptions such as funding contracts, maintaining current levels of service, etc. The Council reviews the drafts; the public provides comments; and then the final budget is approved.

Continued on page 5

Sumner Website Gets Extreme Make Over

Sumner's beginning the new year with a new website! After serving well for over 10 years, the old site has retired and is replaced with a site designed for surfing. Rather than a structure built on the departments in City Hall, the new site directs you to pages based on whether you live, work or do business in Sumner. And, of course, if you are looking directly for a City service, you can go to the government section for everything from Council minutes to business license applications. The address is the same: www.ci.sumner.wa.us. So, grab a cup of coffee and get ready to surf!

Dr. Sumner got a fresh new "look" too. Check it out on page 7.



INSIDE: Full City Services for the Price of a Latte • State Sidewalk Grant • Getting Out When It Gets Cold!

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'm going to declare that 2007 is going to be a great year for Sumner. You never know what the next 12 months will bring, but I think it's good to start off positive. You've probably already read the Council's four priorities on the cover, and I want to add my own personal New Year's resolutions as your mayor.

1. Fix sidewalks. A complete system is crucial to our health and safety. We just passed the first cut to receive one grant that will fill in some holes (see page 4), and we'll keep finding solutions to get this done.
2. Attract more businesses to a) help our budget without raising taxes and b) provide the convenient services we need. Property taxes can only raise 1% each year while costs go up by a higher percentage, giving the City a yearly financing challenge. We need more business--and more sales tax--here in Sumner to support the cost of our city services.
3. Work on parking. There's always a limited quantity and multiple needs. Together, we'll find some compromises.
4. Keep Sumner a nice place. Community character is one of the Council's four priorities, but it's so important that I'm echoing it, too.
5. Run the city more efficiently. We're using new technology and new ideas to improve service to you while decreasing costs--a win-win for everyone.
6. Deal with all our new problems in a community-oriented, friendly way. If we can keep this up, no other changes will affect the essence of Sumner.
7. Be an accessible mayor. If you like or don't like something, please let me know. Even if we disagree, I want to know your thoughts and understand better where you're coming from.

I figure with that list, I should have a busy and productive 2007!

Dave Enslow

Mayor Dave Enslow

Mayor and Mrs. Enslow wave to the crowd during the Santa Parade.



City of Sumner

1104 Maple Street
Sumner, WA 98390
253-863-8300
253-863-2850 FAX

MAYOR

Dave Enslow 299-5790

CITY COUNCIL

Steve Allsop 299-5793
Curt Brown 299-5796
Mike Connor 299-5795
Randy Hynek 299-5792
Ed Hannus 299-5791
Leroy Goff 299-5797
Matt Richardson 299-5794

CITY STAFF

John Doan,
City Administrator 299-5501

Diane Supler,
Deputy City Administrator 299-5502

Carmen Palmer,
Communications Director 299-5503

Patricia Bosmans,
City Attorney 299-5611

Susan Clary,
City Clerk 299-5500

Paul Rogerson,
Community Development Director 299-5521

Colleen Wilson,
Police Chief 299-5641

Bill Shoemaker,
Public Works Director 299-5701

Bruce Johnson,
Community/Senior Services Manager 299-5731

Lee Anderson,
Parks and Facilities Manager 299-5631

CITY OFFICES

Administration/Finance 863-8300
FAX 863-2850

Cemetery 863-6345

Fire (non-emergency) 863-5451

Golf Course 863-8198

Inspection Line 299-5530

Parks and Recreation 891-6500

Permit Center 299-5523

Police (non-emergency) 863-6384

Senior Center 863-2910

MUNICIPAL COURT

Judge Stephen R. Shelton
Court Offices 863-7635

Sandra Warter,
Interim Court Administrator 299-5621

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Main Number 863-1800
Dan Packer, Fire Chief 863-5451

In the year Double-O-7, give your pets the license to stay safe!

Many pet owners are not aware that they need to license their pets every year. Besides being the law, pet licensing keeps your dogs and cats safe.

LICENSE GIVES SAFETY

- If your pet is lost and has a license, he or she will be more quickly reunited with you.
- Pets with current licenses won't be mistaken as homeless strays.
- Your fees support animal services' efforts to reunite lost pets, keep the community safe from dangerous animals and provide adoption services for homeless pets.

For a small annual fee (as low as \$4 per year for an adult altered cat), you know that you are providing insurance for your pet's safety and care for all animals in the community. You will soon receive a letter and license application in the mail. Please fill out and return so that your pets are safe and protected.

If your pet already has a license and you want to check its expiration date, or you have any other questions about pet licenses and animal control, contact animal services at 253-841-5595.



GUEST COUNCIL COLUMN

Looking Out the Window

As I sit at the kitchen table gazing at the neighborhood from my Sumner Ave. viewpoint, it's easy to be reminded of the city's many roles. From the fresh wind blown limbs on the street, I think of our busy Public Works Department, whose street sweeper consistently keeps our streets clean. As an aid car rushes by, our recent contract with East Pierce Fire and Rescue comes to mind. Though the names may change on aid cars, fire trucks and shirts, we gain increased training and reduced response times. We also maintain all the great activities they provide year-round without having to increase taxes.

I'm also reminded of two issues on which we continue to work: sidewalks and parking. Though there is a sidewalk directly out my window, there are also areas within eyesight that are without. I still believe in creating a walking community. The recent LID was opposed, so alternate avenues are

being explored. The State grant will hopefully get some areas completed with little cost to the city. This grant covers areas stemming from Maple Lawn Elementary. (See page 4)

From the cars parked in front of the house, the issue of parking around the train station comes to mind. This is a difficult issue, and many have ideas on what should be done about it. Our businesses would benefit from improved signage to guide patrons to public parking areas, but the issue of commuter parking is very involved, and much thought needs to be done.

Everywhere we look, the city has some involvement. Maintaining the good and righting the wrongs are a continual process. Your input is crucial in the direction we go. I'm proud to tell others where I live; I hope you feel the same.

Wishing you a healthy 2007,
Curt Brown
cbrown@ci.sumner.wa.us

ITEMS PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 2006

DECEMBER

Adopted Resolution No. 1211 authorizing firefighters to participate in medical reimbursement plan

Adopted Ordinance No. 2190 passing 2006 supplemental budget

Adopted Ordinance No. 2189 passing 2007 budget

Approved 2007-2009 Sumner Officers and Support Guild Collective Bargaining Agreements

Adopted Ordinance No. 2191 approving the 2007 salary schedule

Adopted Resolution 1213 authorizing an interfund loan to the Arterial Street Fund

Adopted Resolution 1212 surplussing computer equipment and a vehicle

Sumner Recommended for State Sidewalk Grant as Process Continues

In December, Washington State Department of Transportation announced their recommendation of city projects to receive grant money under the Safe Routes to Schools program. They prioritized the projects and ranked Sumner's project at number 11. Now, the State legislature will consider the

list as they determine how to use the Federal grant money to fund projects. If they award all the money they received from the Federal government, the first 19 programs will most likely receive funding, including Sumner.

Sumner's proposed program is a

\$360,000 grant to help complete walking routes to Maple Lawn Elementary and Sumner Middle School. The program uses a three-step approach to encouraging students to walk to school: engineering, education, and enforcement.



The grant money will help fund engineering, or structural improvements to walking routes. These improvements include completing sidewalks where they are missing on main routes and adding visual enhancements to three key street crossings. If the legislature approves the grant later this year, construction could begin in 2008 and be joined with efforts in education and enforcement.

For questions about the program, contact City Engineer Mike Dahlem at miked@ci.sumner.wa.us or 253-299-5702.

Management of Service Changes with New Calendar

When 06 turned over to 07, the contract between the City of Sumner and East Pierce Fire and Rescue also took effect. In reality, the consolidation that brings Sumner's Fire Department under East Pierce Fire and Rescue had taken place before December to ensure a smooth transition. So, what has changed? Not much! East Pierce's energetic involvement in such community events as the Santa Parade (shown right) demonstrated how Sumner is really not losing a fire department but is gaining a great partner in the fire district. East Pierce has already committed to put a new engine they had ordered before the consolidation at the Sumner station, estimating that it will go in service by the end of this month.

For fire details, go to www.eastpiercefirerescue.org or call 253-863-1800. You'll also receive a newsletter directly from East Pierce in the mail.



Full Service City for the Price of a Latte

Normally, we can directly link what we pay to what we get. We want a sandwich and pay for it. We use so many minutes on a cell phone and get a bill at the end of the month. But, when you pay your property taxes, what exactly are you “buying” with your money?

Of your property taxes, 23% goes to the City. The rest goes to other jurisdictions including the State, County, Port of Tacoma, schools and library. (These percentages are from Pierce County’s Assessor-Treasurer Office for 2006. The percentage could vary slightly, but not much, for 2007.)

The budget gives you the full picture of what the City does with the 23% of your taxes it receives. However, few probably want to

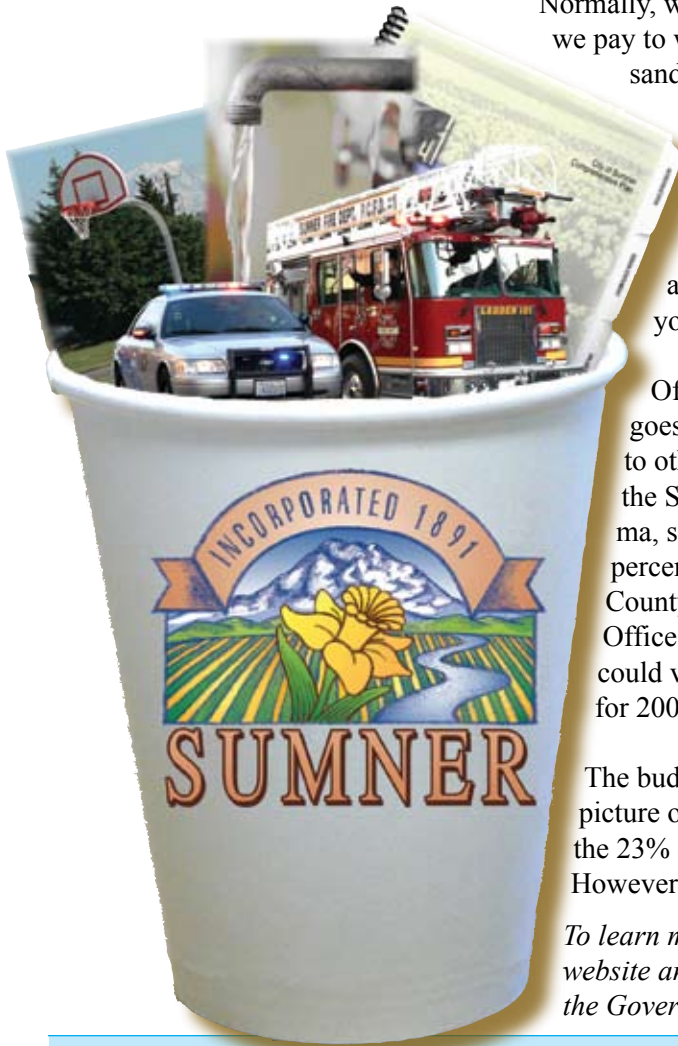
spend a day or so reading and understanding the full budget.

So, here’s the abbreviated version: if you take 23% of the average property value and divide it by 365 days in the year, it comes to just a little over \$2 per day. That means that for the price of a latte (or less), you get all the City services including

- police protection
- fire protection (the City pays East Pierce for their services)
- a road system
- parks and trails
- streetlights
- municipal court
- animal control
- future planning and permitting
- community events
- emergency preparedness

Almost enough to give you a caffeine buzz, isn’t it?

To learn more about where your money goes within the City, visit the new website and look at pages on taxes under the Living section or budget under the Government section.



Budget

continued from page 1

Where We Are

The major changes that appear in the budget include the addition of one more police officer, removal of the position of community/senior services manager, and using the 1% increase banked from the last two years.

After Initiative 747, the City cannot increase property taxes by more than 1% per year. This can be a challenge when regular inflation is up around 5%, meaning the City’s costs rise greater than its revenue. However, in the past two years, the building boom has provided more

one-time revenue than usual, so the City could hold off taking even the 1% increase. With that boom slowing and eyes to the future of the City’s financial health, it now must take the 1% saved from the past two years in order to keep up with the cost of providing the current level of service (with the modifications listed above).

Where We’re Going

As the City looks to the future, the 1% increase cap will continue to be a challenge. Even if it weren’t there, continuously raising taxes isn’t a good long-term solution. However, the City also can’t rely on things like the construction boom as they are not predictable or continuous. So, the City and its Council are looking

to add long-term, dependable ways to grow Sumner’s revenue streams, at least to keep up with rising costs. One of those is looking at what retail to attract to the City as retail brings sales tax revenue with it.

Again, all these strategies go back to the Council’s priorities, one of which is long-term stability. Through these efforts, Sumner plans on having smooth budget processes year after year.

So, perhaps the approval of the 2007 budget was not the end of a process, but rather the beginning of a long journey that will keep the City prospering and providing services for years to come.

**MISSION:**

To provide needed and valued services that promote our sense of community.

VISION:

Sumner will set the standard of excellence for a progressive small city.

VALUES:

We are collaborative & professional.
 We are innovative & visionary.
 We are responsive & accountable.
 We serve with respect & integrity.

Getting Outdoors in the Winter

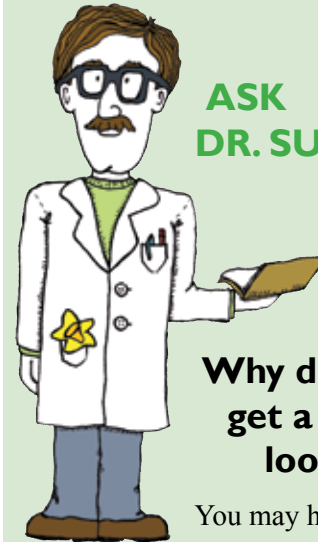
When the weather is frightful and the fire delightful, exercise sometimes falls by the wayside. Here are a few ideas to get the cardio pumping even when the thermometer is low.

Golfing at Sumner Meadows offers a great way to stretch your legs and get some fresh air. January 20 is the Polar Bear Open, and February 4 is the Super Bowl tournament--both events for two-person teams, open to anyone. March 23 is a seminar on How to Host a Successful Outing and March 31 is a Women in Golf seminar. Also, golfers can purchase their 2007 Players Cards. The card will cost \$50 and give the holder a free lesson, a free weekday round of golf, some range buckets and 20% off greens fees Monday through Friday.

Hiking may be out of the question in the mountains, but you can enjoy one of Sumner's new trails along the river and at the confluence of the White & Puyallup Rivers at the end of State Street.

Check out the programs through the Recreation Department--winter programs include everything from tai chi to dodgeball.

For more information go to www.ci.sumner.wa.us/Living/Parks.htm for links and information for golfing, recreation, trails and more.



ASK DR. SUMNER:

Why did you get a new look?

You may have noticed that I got a make over that has me looking a little younger and a little more “nerdy stylish.” So, was I just having a mid-life crisis or what?

Actually, my “old look” served me well for many years, but it was made from clip art, so you might have found my twins elsewhere. Recently, my role expanded for the City of Sumner: you’ll now find me on the website too, so it was a good time for me to get a new look that’s unique to Sumner.

Artist Lana Hoover gave me my makeover. She serves on the Arts Commission, and I believe she did quite a terrific job--down to the daffodil in my pocket! Ms. Hoover also designed my friend Safety Sally, who also appears on the website to give you safety tips as you surf the site.

Hopefully, I will make it easier for you to find out more about your City. I’ll continue to answer questions here, so if there’s something you want to know about City government, just let me know!

You can contact Dr. Sumner at drsumner@ci.sumner.wa.us.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Helping our neighbors in need doesn't end with the holidays and no one knows that like the generous people of Sumner. Below are a few opportunities coming up.

Coat Drive

Keep that "warm" holiday feeling a little longer and bring your old coats, sweaters, hats, mittens and blankets to Sunset Chev's showroom on Traffic Avenue by January 31 to benefit the Puyallup Valley St. Francis House.

Night of Miracles

This dinner and auction will be held on February 24 at 6 pm at Emerald Downs. Featuring Keith Eldridge, KOMO 4 News South Sound Newscenter Chief, the event benefits Exodus Housing, which strives to eliminate homelessness. \$40 per person. www.exodushousing.org

Spring Tea and Fashion Show

Benefitting the Sumner Food Bank, the tea and fashion show will be held on April 14th at 11 am in the Old Dieringer Gym at Petersen Brothers, 1808 East Valley Hwy. Guests can purchase tables to decorate with a chosen theme. Prizes will award the best table as voted on by the group. For more information, call Robyn DeLorm at 253-405-5667.

If you have an event or drive, please let us know at carmenp@ci.sumner.wa.us. As space permits, Community Corner will list efforts that benefit local residents through established non-profit organizations.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

January

- 16 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 22 City Council study session, 6 pm

February

- 5 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 12 City Council study session, 6 pm
- 19 City Hall closed
- 20 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 26 City Hall study session, 6 pm

March

- 5 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 12 City Council study session, 6 pm



COMMUNITY EVENTS

January

- 18..... Sumner Reads Together Book Discussion, 10 am, Library
- 24..... Senior Trip: Kent Senior Center, \$ fee, Sumner Senior Center
- 30..... Open House: Valley Avenue Improvements, 4-6 pm, Council Chambers
- 31..... Sumner Reads Together Book Discussion, 7 pm, Library

February

- 6 Sumner Reads Together: Discovering Emily Carr, 7 pm, Library
- 7..... Senior Trip: Museum of Glass and Spaghetti Factory, \$ fee, Senior Center
- 10 ... Sweetheart Wine Walk, 4-7 pm, Downtown
- 13... .. Sumner Reads Together: *The Life and Times of Emily Carr* documentary, 7 pm, Library
- 15... .. Sumner Reads Together: *The Life and Times of Emily Carr* documentary, 10 am, Library
- 21..... Senior Trip: Muckleshoot Indian Casino, \$ fee, Sumner Senior Center

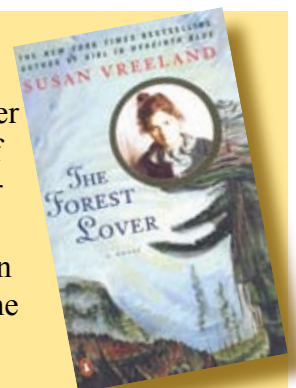
March

- 4 Senior Trip: *Titanic the Musical*, \$ fee, Senior Center
- 6 Sumner University, 6 - 9 pm, details on page 8
- 11..... Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1 pm, Main Street
- 13 Sumner University, 6 - 9 pm, details on page 8

Sumner reads together 2007



Don't forget! Take an adventure with Emily Carr from the wilds of Vancouver Island to the glitter of Paris before World War I. Even if you don't get a chance to finish the book, join in the fun of learning about one of the Northwest's great artists!



Sign Up Now: Sumner University Returns!



Sign up to attend Sumner University. Whether you would be a freshman or a senior, there's always something to learn at Sumner U! Held on March 6 and 13, both 6 - 9 pm, Sumner University includes classes about various aspects of your City.

This year, you can learn about personal safety from Police Chief Colleen Wilson or about new development in Sumner from the Community Development team or even Property Tax 101 from Ken Madsen, Pierce County's Assessor-Treasurer. And, of course, the University closes with everyone's annual favorite opportunity to tell us what you think about Sumner.

Refreshments and coursebook are included. Registration is free but space is limited, so hurry. Graduates of both evenings receive a diploma and exclusive Sumner U t-shirt. Last year's graduates said Sumner U was

"Great, fast moving, presenters open to questions and ideas."

"Everything informative and interesting."

"Great for meeting neighbors and sharing ideas."

To reserve your space, contact Sally Abrams by February 19 at sallya@ci.sumner.wa.us or 253-299-5520.



Open House: Valley Avenue Improvements



**January 30, 4-6 pm
Sumner Presbyterian
Church
1915 Washington St.**

Valley Avenue is about to receive some improvements from Washington to Elm! Improvements will include the addition of two bike lanes, selective on-street parking, curb, gutters and sidewalks and improved transit stops. If you'd like to hear more about what's going to happen, the timeline and how it could affect you, please stop by the Open House and talk with the City Engineer.

If you have questions about the project and can't make the Open House, contact City Engineer Mike Dahlem at miked@ci.sumner.wa.us or 253-299-5702.

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



Steve Allsop



Curt Brown



Mike Connor



Leroy Goff



Ed Hannus



Randy Hynek



Matt Richardson

City of Sumner
1104 Maple Street
Sumner, WA 98390

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