



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ISSUE 47

CITY OF SUMNER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

Looking at 2006: Recapping Year's Accomplishments

We all remember--a flood, a windstorm, a consolidation of the fire department with East Pierce. So, why look back at 2006 now? We believe that like every for-profit company and non-profit organization, we should report our accomplishments to our stakeholders--you, the citizens.

Throughout this issue, you'll find information that helps explain to you how the City used your money to serve you in 2006. This is just a snapshot, but if you'd like a larger report, go online at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.

BY THE NUMBERS

Planted over **3000** trees along the 24th Street pedestrian bridge.

74% of respondents to a customer survey rated their experience with Sumner's police department as excellent.

Violent crimes down **50%**.

Property crimes down **20%**.

Traffic stops up **10%**.

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Looking at 2006: City on a Mission

City of Sumner's mission: to provide needed and valued services that promote our sense of community.

So, how did the City meet that mission in 2006? Here are a few examples from various departments and programs throughout the City.

Community Development

This department's primary focus is to build that sense of community. In 2006, this happened through a variety of ways:

- conducting public workshops regarding parking,
- sponsoring Sumner University,
- participating in youth forums at the schools
- supporting Sumner Downtown Association
- improving the permit process

In a broader sense, this department also builds community by taking your needs and making them come about through planning documents and processes. In other words, participation in government *does* actually guide governmental rule-making and decisions! Some examples of responding to citizen concerns in 2006 included bringing to the Council Restricted

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As you read this report summarizing your city's activities in 2006, you may be wondering what all this means for 2007. We are doing more of the same, but I think this year, we're seeing a remodel of City government. When a house needs remodeling, it's usually working just fine. People live there, people love it, but the stove is 20 years old, and new technology has made new ones so much more efficient. I think our government is just like that: everything's working just fine, but there is new technology, new ways of thinking of city government, new models to get you involved that could make us even better.

I want to work on the timing of stoplights to both move traffic efficiently but also deter speeding. I want to find more things like the online bill pay system that use technology to overcome challenges we've had for years. These are grand ideas, but they're not any different from a home remodel. Ten years ago, did any of us envision that ordinary homes would be putting in a faucet that turns on and off by itself? Or a stove that uses magnetic energy to safely heat food through a piece of paper?

I believe strongly that having an efficient, cutting-edge small government is just as possible. And, like any good remodel, it must keep the best of a home's heritage intact for that special flavor that gives a home...or a city...its personality.

I can't do a remodel alone, though. I have a vision, but it takes architects, contractors and construction experts. In other words, it takes the Council, employees and you. I truly believe that together, we'll build our dream city.



Photo courtesy of the Puyallup/Sumner Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Enslow gives his State of the Cities address for the Puyallup/Sumner Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Enslow

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

Become a Commissioner!

There is an opening for a four-year term on the Design Commission, which provides advice to the City to encourage and promote good urban design as a vital part of the community. Most members represent design professions such as engineering, architecture, planning, construction and landscaping. There is also an opening for a three-year term on the Forestry Commission, which provides advice to the City on issues related to the planting and maintenance of trees. The Commissioners include people with expertise in trees, local business persons, residents and representatives of utilities. If you're interested, contact Sally Abrams at sallya@ci.sumner.wa.us or 253-299-5520.

GUEST COUNCIL COLUMN

"Sumner" -Our Town Growth-

I came to Sumner in 1937, and when I looked down from Elhi hill, I saw a beautiful sight. Nestled between the Puyallup River and the Stuck River (White) was a wonderful valley floor filled with agriculture. Sumner was small and thriving.

There were 2 canneries, a lettuce shed, a rhubarb shed, 5 gas stations, a grade school, Junior High, and High School, many churches, a library, show hall, meat markets, milk delivered to your doorstep, 2 newspapers, 2 dry goods stores, 3 pharmacies, 2 bowling alleys, Montgomery Wards, Spartan drive-in and very few cars.

Seventy years from that day I see from McMillan to Sumner mostly homes being built and 162 only a bit wider. Taxes and land values have quelled farming. There seems to be no market, and farmers sell corn, berries and squash on the roadside. Rhubarb and

flowers have survived but are surely on their way out also.

Growth Still the Problem

.. Looking forward, how can we plan as a City? Well if we listen to those in our schools who will be the future, we must recognize there will always be change. The youth tell us they want a better life than their folks and have no idea of the days of seventy years ago. We can't seem to keep up with schools because we now live with so much technology. High School diplomas are a must everywhere and college, if you want to get ahead at all, and that is expensive.

We need sidewalks, more places to live, better transportation, better parking, and none of us can imagine 70 years from now. The Council needs to plan for the future, and with your input and suggestions, we will do a better job.

Leroy Goff
lgoff@ci.sumner.wa.us

GUEST COUNCIL COLUMN

A recent article in *The News Tribune* reported that some of Sumner's community leaders want to see more commercial development allowed in the industrial area north of town. There appears to be no concern about how this development will affect our downtown. Their only concern is to increase the tax base.

I understand their desire to stabilize Sumner's tax base, but I think they underestimate the risk. I don't believe they have adequately considered how the development will impact the viability of downtown Sumner.

Every small town in the valley's community and commercial identity was at

one time centered on Main Street. The rhythm and heart of the towns were vibrant and strong. In the interest of increasing their tax base, choices were made that changed the character of many towns.

All of the towns in the valley have faced this situation. Those that allowed commercial development to ring their cities, watched their downtowns die. Now millions of dollars are being spent to reinvigorate their core, and bring life back into their city. Sumner is the last small town that has not ringed their downtown with strip malls that leach the life blood from downtown.

Now, is the time to talk about Sumner's financial future and make plans. We currently have time to make calm, deliberate choices for the good of our community, although the pace of the discussion needs to quicken. We have two years left before our financial curve takes effect.

It is time for Sumner's leaders to put this issue at the top of the agenda so we use the time to make quality decisions for our future. Concerned citizens of Sumner should contact their community leaders and let them know how they feel about this issue.

Michael J Conner
mconner@ci.sumner.wa.us

Mission

continued from page 1

Parking Zone solutions for the train station area and suggesting amendments to the zoning code that address things like yard setbacks.

Legal Department

This department often works behind the scenes, but it fulfills the mission just as much as the more visible departments. For example, through collaboration with the Fire Department and East Pierce Fire and Rescue, the Legal Department helped ensure that you and the Fire staff experienced a seamless transition.

Legal also improved its services to defendants and defense attorneys by putting into practice some suggestions received through a customer survey. Now, the department uses the website and other technology to inform the defense attorneys and to allow attorneys to present routine motions without having to be present.

Police Department

The Police Department expanded its community outreach through programs like Communities for Families, PC Net, Citizens Corp, Neighborhood Watch, Sumner Downtown Association and STOMP as well as its own Citizens Academy. But, as with other

departments, perhaps the best example was the flood. As one officer put it, "Chief, one thing that comes to mind for me in thinking about what this department has accomplished in the last year as an example of our City's mission statement would be 'THE FLOOD' and how this department operated throughout the entire incident. I have received many compliments around town at how pleased people were with our services during that time. I know that many Officers spent many long days here and I never once heard a complaint about that from anyone here. So it was both a needed service in that it was a job that was expected of us and had to be done and also a valued service that I think most people appreciated because of the way we handled it!"

Senior Center

The Senior Center offered needed services around the changes to the Medicare program. Seniors had concerns about how to interpret the program requirements, so the Center scheduled a briefing by State Senator Pam Roach and Medicaid/Medicare officials.

Volunteer Program

City volunteers worked with local faith-based groups and the American Red Cross to assist in flood recovery. The City assisted with information and referral to help secure living arrangements, food, clothing, etc. The City also assisted in moving or getting others to help move six families in to temporary housing and in coordinating with volunteer organizations for clean-up. During the rest of the year, volunteers helped plant trees along the new trail system.

There are numerous more examples across departments, but this gives you an idea of how the City worked in 2006 to meet its mission. And now in 2007, the mission continues....



Numbers *continued from page 1*

Legal drafted and/or reviewed **29** ordinances and **34** resolutions.

Effectively prosecuted **435** criminal traffic matters and **264** non-criminal traffic matters including 77 incidents of domestic violence in the Sumner Municipal Court. That's up 40% from 2005.

Solicited developer partners for Red Apple site through a RFQ process and narrowed the field to **3** finalists.

Permitted large industrial projects totaling over **1,000,000** square feet.

Subdivisions processed added just over **100** new residential lots to the City – a larger number than most years.

Responded to over **100** complaints of code violations.

Over **17,000** visits at the Senior Center.

2 miles of residential streets were chip/fog sealed.

With a launch in the fall, the online utility bill pay option is already being used by **12%** of utility customers.

Over \$ **1,000,000** saved by refunding bonds for Utility Local Improvement District No. 67.

A List of Goals Becomes a List of Accomplishments

The 2006 Council Goals listed 13 priorities for the City to accomplish in addition to everything else. So, did we do it?

TACTICAL PRIORITIES

Recruit a hotel

A hotel would broaden the tax base, support tourism, and could reinforce other related development

- A developer obtained land use permits and is completing building permit applications for two hotels bringing about 200 rooms to 24th Street.

Study traffic problems

A review of traffic and parking issues is needed to guide future budgets and the six-year transportation plan.

- The Police track citizen complaints, accidents and traffic violations to identify areas with high levels of problems.
- A cross-departmental Traffic Team was formed to recommend areas of focused enforcement and street alterations.
- The intersection of Tacoma Ave/ Puyallup Street was repaved, and State Street was rebuilt.
- The City applied for numerous grants for road projects, trails & sidewalks.
- Improvements were designed for Valley Avenue and Steward Road.

Continue financial planning at five-year horizon

Ensure it accurately portrays the projected future revenues and expenditures in a changing economic climate.

- Finance updated the Five-Year Financial Forecast.

Review nuisance regulations

Review and propose updates to the City's nuisance regulations to meet the current issues facing quality of life.

- Legal reviewed nuisance ordinances and presented a nuisance vehicle ordinance for Public Safety Committee's consideration in 2007.
- The Police presented noise regulation options to the Public Safety Committee with some revisions expected in 2007.

Adopt Fire Dept. strategic plan

The plan will guide City investment in fire and emergency medical services.

- The City completed the strategic plan and successful contractual consolidation with East Pierce Fire and Rescue.
- Legal ensured manufacturer reimbursed the City for the engine that did not operate properly.

Adopt sign strategy for public signs

Determine how best to provide the public's information, directional, and regulatory needs.

- The City and Sumner Downtown Association improved parking lot signage and directional signs to public parking. Lots also received improved landscaping and striping.
- City continues to work with the Arts Commission, Historical Society and service groups to improve signage throughout the City.
- Signs went up to indicate historical names of streets throughout the city.

Adopt Parking Action Plan

Address the growing frustration and issues associated with parking.

- The Parking Action Plan has been implemented in the train station and downtown areas.
- City met with and surveyed downtown merchants and shoppers to recommend changes in parking regulations, signage and lot usage, which will come to Council in early 2007.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

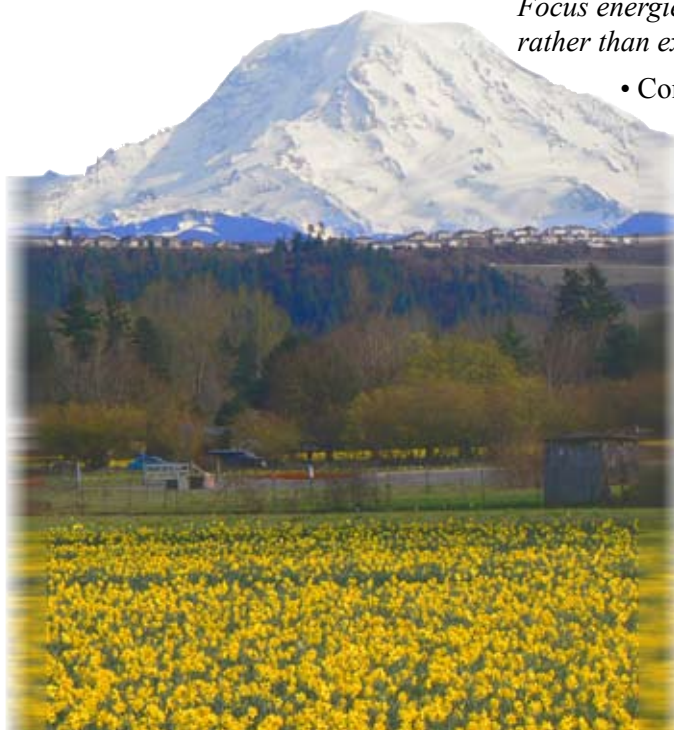
Create mission-driven and values-based organization

- Leadership Team met for training throughout the year.
- The Police's Investigations Unit and Communications Unit developed guiding principles, and supervisors of the Police's Patrol Team created written expectations.
- The Police worked on definitions of the words used in the department's mission statement.

Drive for exceptional performance

Focus energies on improving quality rather than expanding services.

- Community Development and Public Works departments began rewriting permit center procedures manual. Permit turn-around times are decreasing.
- Communications Plan launched improvements to newsletter, website, and other communications efforts.
- In addition to formal awards, the Police added informal recognition of exceptional performance.



Continued on page 6

Goals continued from page 5

- Legal revised its forms: offers on criminal charges are printed rather than handwritten, increasing efficiency and clarity.
- Police's Professional Standards unit tracks and reports concerns and excellence in service.
- One employee was added to staff the Fire Marshal role for improved permit turn-around times.
- On-line utility bill pay system began.

Maximize the human talent of the organization

- The Police's training completed all certifications required or recommended for professional police and communications, assisting in maintaining the department's State Accreditation.
- The Finance Department coordinated training with the City of Bonney Lake, doubling training days without additional cost to the City.
- The City successfully negotiated labor contracts with five unions.

Build the "Sumner" brand

- The Police Department seeks Customer feedback from anyone who needs their services and received a rating of excellent from 74% of those who return the survey.
- Tools such as a City style manual were developed to encourage a positive City brand.

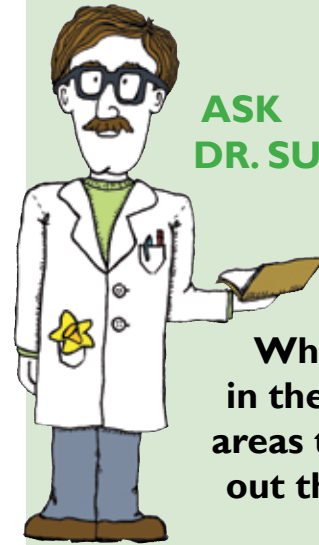
Maintain financial responsibility

- Standard & Poor's rating agency upgraded the City's General Obligation Bonds from an "A-" to an "A" rating, based in part on the City's stable financial management.
- The Washington State Auditor's Office gave an unqualified opinion on the City's financial statements.
- The City contracted with a vendor to audit sales tax collections, collecting over \$2,000 in sales taxes that should have been reported to Sumner's credit.

Improve employee safety

- A team of employees from various departments re-energized an employee Wellness Committee.
- The Police continue to monitor compliance with best practices in accordance with accreditation monitoring.
- The Police updated safety equipment for unusual occurrences, adding life jackets to patrol vehicles.
- Maintenance safety hangers were installed on the Ryan House Museum roof for future work on the structure.
- The City Attorney edited the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys book on Human Resource issues, providing guidance to municipal attorneys state-wide.

For the full report, go online at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.



**ASK
DR. SUMNER:**

**What's going
in the vacant
areas through-
out the city?**

The corner of Main & Wood that used to be the Chevron station is the future site of Heritage Bank. Their temporary offices are currently off Traffic Avenue.

The corner of Main & Valley, just in front of Jack in the Box, was undergoing some abatement by the private owner for old gas tanks in the ground. Again, this is all private work, so the City doesn't have much more insight than anyone else, but I did hear a rumor that the abatement was done, and someone had purchased the lot.

I also heard a rumor that KC's Caboose was being rebuilt, and as far as I know, this is just a rumor as the land is still for sale. The rumors that permits have already gone through the City for rebuilding are not true.

And, the Red Apple site is moving along nicely. Five developers responded to the City's Request for Qualifications, and of those, the City chose three to Request for Proposal. The City expects to review proposals and recommend a candidate to the Council later this spring.

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



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.

“Sum-More” News...

17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

An annual local tradition returns! On **April 7** bring the kids to Sunset Stadium for an egg hunt, sponsored by East Pierce Firefighters Local 3520. Hunts for children 1-3 years at 9 am, 4-6 years at 10 am, 7-9 years at 11 am, 10-12 years at noon. Food and monetary donations accepted for the Sumner Food Bank. For additional information, call East Pierce Fire & Rescue 253-863-5451. **BONUS:** Before or after hunting, go downtown for the Bring in Spring open house. Shop the stores and enjoy extra goodies up and down Main Street.

Test of Emergency Siren

On **May 1** at 10 am, Pierce County will test the lahar alarms throughout the region. If you hear this alarm on this day, please note that it is a test. Many have worried that they can't hear the alarm inside their homes. Actually, the alarms are meant to warn people who are outside. Other methods, including phone calls and radio broadcasts target residents inside homes, offices and vehicles.



Welcome to the studio! The Arts Commission will regularly share art news and events happening here and in the surrounding area. Currently, we are creating a local artist directory to use as a resource for events, projects, community activities, and possibly more. If you are an artist working in any medium and would like to be included, please register with Melinda McColley at 253-826-9747 or cd@ci.sumner.wa.us.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

March

- 19 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 26 City Hall study session, 6 pm

April

- 2 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 9 City Council study session, 6 pm
- 16 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 23 City Hall study session, 6 pm

May

- 7 City Council meeting, 7 pm
- 14 City Council study session, 6 pm



COMMUNITY EVENTS

March

- 11 Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1 pm, Main Street
- 21 Senior Trip: Red Wind Casino Details at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.
- 22 Community Summit, 5-8 pm, Calvary Community Church
- 26-30 DM Disposal's Spring Clean, see below

April

- 7 "Bring in Spring" Open Houses 9 am - 5 pm, Downtown
- 7 Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt, see story at left for ages and times
- 14-15 Playground Raising Work Party, Rainier View Park
- 15 Daffodil Royalty Tea, Ryan House Museum
- 21 Daffodil Parade, 2:30pm, Downtown
- 27 Senior Trip: Ft Nisqually Living History Museum, see website for details
- 28 Mayor's Town Hall Style Meeting, 9 am, City Hall, see page 8
- 28 Parks Appreciation Day, 9 am - noon, see page 8
- 28 Shred-a-Thon, Red Apple Parking Lot, 10 am - 2 pm, see page 8

May

- 1 Test of Emergency Siren, 10 am
- 9 Senior Trip: Northshore Senior Center



Spring Clean

DM Disposal is teaming with the City once again to help you with your spring cleaning. Watch your DM bill for coupons that will allow you to put out extra garbage, yard waste, and even an old appliance to get picked up **March 26-30**.

Spring Returns with Daffodil Festival

March may have come in roaring like a lion, but it's only a few weeks before Sumner turns itself over to the golden blooms of its heritage. The 74th Annual Daffodil Festival returns with the theme, Daffodils & All That Jazz. Whether you enjoy elegance at the Daffodil Royalty Tea in the Ryan House Museum or cheering on the bands from your perch on the curb, get ready to paint the town...and all that jazz.



April 15
 Daffodil Royalty Tea at Ryan House Museum
Sumner Historical Society, Vicki Conner
 253-299-5780 or museum@ci.sumner.wa.us

April 21, 2:30 pm
 Grand Floral Parade
 Main Street from Kincaid to Lewis Avenue

April 28--A Day for Conversations, Shredding and Tree Care!

If you're looking for a day to really get involved in your community, April 28 is the day for you.

It all begins at 9 am at City Hall where Mayor Enslow is hosting the second Town Hall style meeting. This is an informal get-together that gives you the chance to enjoy coffee and doughnuts at City Hall and talk with the Mayor and your neighbors about what's on your mind. There's no set agenda, no set topics, just a conversation among friends.

From there, head across the street to the Red Apple parking lot to learn how to protect yourself from identity theft. From 10 am to 2 pm, you can bring up to three grocery bags or two file boxes of paper (old statements, credit card offers, etc.). Through LEGIT, a state-wide effort to combat identity theft, your paper will be shredded for free!

And, finally April 28 is also Parks Appreciation Day. Come out anytime 9 am - noon to enhance the trees planted last year along the trail in the north end of town.

Details are available online at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



Steve Allsop



Curt Brown



Mike Connor



Leroy Goff



Ed Hannus



Randy Hynek



Matt Richardson

City of Sumner
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