



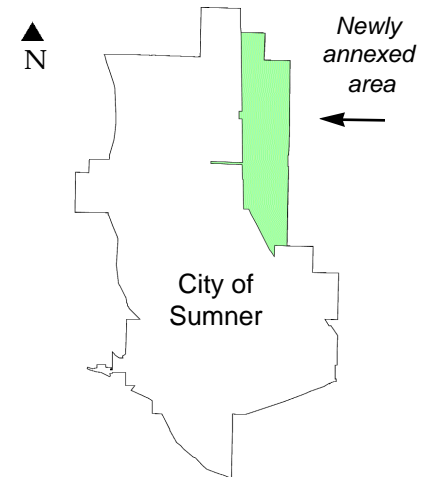
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

City Grows by 500 Acres

The City of Sumner grew by 500 acres in October when the area along the East Valley Highway was annexed. Two major businesses on the East Valley Highway had petitioned the City for annexation. Petersen Brothers and City Transfer each desired City services including police protection, permits, and various utilities. The area previously was in unincorporated Pierce County.

Included within the new annexation are several major businesses, a major gravel mine, the City of Puyallup's watershed, a tavern, the historic Puget Sound Energy White River Generating Station and about a dozen houses. The area also includes the former Dieringer School, which was acquired in recent years and restored by Gary and Arlene Petersen and family. The building houses the offices of Petersen Brothers, Inc.

The school was originally built in the 1920's and is on the Pierce County Historical Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The building is frequently an example of "adaptive reuse" where historic structures are restored and adapted to reuse by other activities than they were originally designed. The building was first designed by E. J. Bresemann who also did the Wilkerson School and many houses in Tacoma's Proctor area and the State Bank in Buckley. For an opportunity to view the historic building, see the article on Sumner University on page 2. The annexation to Sumner means that residents will receive police, general government, court, and permitting services from the City of Sumner. Fire service was previously provided by Sumner by contract to Fire District No. 1. The City has been working with several of the property owners in the area to provide water and sewer services.



The annexation includes land where the City's new 2 million gallon reservoir is being constructed. The new water tank will ensure adequate fire flow to the new industrial and commercial areas north of the City. It is planned for completion this summer. Funding for the water tank comes from bonds the City issued last year which are being repaid by new commercial and industrial developments.

Site of Sumner University

The old Dieringer School at 1808 East Valley Highway will be the site of two sessions of Sumner University, Feb. 3 and 10, where citizens can learn more about their community (see page 2). The old Dieringer School is part of Sumner's newly annexed area (see story above).



The old Dieringer School.

See Inside

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As 1998 (and my first year as Mayor) draws to an end I look back on a few frustrations but a lot of satisfaction. I've enjoyed working with everyone to keep Sumner the "home town" we love.



Barbara Skinner

Didn't Sumner look wonderful for the holiday season this year? Sumner Rotary provided the garlands for the street decorations and for the first time in 25 years, with the help of the Sumner Promotion Association and American Medical Response, we had holiday lights on Main Street and Alder Avenue. In addition, as a gift to the community, The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse decorated the bridge over the Stuck River with 5,000 bulbs and had 4,000 bulbs on their store. The result was dazzling. The Cannery intends to keep the bridge decorated all year round, with extra lights planned during the holidays. Our thanks to The Cannery, AMR and Sumner Promotion.

Pat Clerget and Tim Hyland from Sumner's Public Works Department were the people responsible for making sure there would be power available, and on that cold, wet, blowy, miserable November 22nd day, Tim was up in the cherry picker from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., stringing garlands and lights across the streets with Pat assisting from the ground. Our Police Chief, Ben Reisz, is the Sumner Rotarian who coordinated the project, including supplying traffic control. I wish I could pass along all the compliments I have heard to each of the people who helped.

Now 1999 is here and it should be interesting. The Sumner train station will be built by Sound Transit, and we'll be improving Main Street with new lights, benches, and sidewalk improvements. The new bridge over the Stuck River into the industrial area should be finished, as well as the 142nd Avenue project. The skateboard park will be built this year. And of course, there are the regular operations of running a city. It's going to be another busy year.

As always, if you have any comments please call me at 253-891-3318.

– Mayor Skinner

Public Works Director Leaves City

Public Works Director Les MacDonald resigned from the City after four years with Sumner. He took a position with the City of Pullman, which was closer to family. Les was originally hired as the City Engineer and was quickly promoted to Public Works Director. During Les' tenure with the City, he was instrumental in the design and construction of many new roads (Washington, Graham, 142nd, 62nd), a new water tank, the north-Sumner sewer system, street standards for neo-traditional

development, response to several major floods, improvements to Salmon Creek, planning for sewer treatment plant expansions, and design of the commuter rail station.

Sumner City Engineer Bill Shoemaker was selected Public Works Director in December. The Public Works Director leads the City's largest department with 27 employees, a \$25 million budget, and responsibility for all transportation and utility services in Sumner.

Learn About City at Sumner University

Sumner University is a great way to learn about your City and help make things happen. This year it will be held February 3rd and 10th, 6 - 9 p.m., at the Dieringer School at 1808 East Valley Highway.

Topics include City finances, Endangered Species Act, current development, tours of the historic school, how to have your message heard by elected officials, history of Sumner, community policing, and Sumner School District's new elementary school.

Alumni of Sumner University have included elected officials, City staff, high school students, and citizens and business people. This is a great opportunity for residents interested in knowing what's going on in Sumner, citizens interested in future elected or appointed office, and students seeking background in government. For information or to register contact Taryn Capps at 891-3303 or see the web page at www.ci.sumner.wa.us.

CITY PHONE NUMBERS



MAYOR

Barbara Skinner891-3318

CITY COUNCIL (Voice mail)

Mike Connor891-3332
 Kris Coppin891-3331
 Dave Enslow891-3338
 Mark Evers891-3330
 Leroy Goff891-3335
 Stuart Scheuerman891-3334
 Ron Scholz891-3336

CITY OFFICES

Administration/Finance863-8300
 FAX 863-2850
 Cemetery863-6345
 Court863-7635
 Fire (non-emergency)863-5451
 Golf Course863-8198
 Parks & Recreation863-5365
 Permit Center863-1230
 Police (non-emergency)863-6384
 Senior Center863-2910
 Utilities826-9400
 Sewer Treatment Plant
 Odor Hotline891-3294

**POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY
 CALL 911**

CITY OF SUMNER

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

MAYOR

Barbara Skinner

CITY COUNCIL

Mike Connor
Kris Coppin
Dave Enslow
Mark Evers
Leroy Goff
Stuart Scheuerman
Ron Scholz

CITY STAFF

Michael Wilson	City Administrator
Steve Zamberlin	Asst. City Administrator
Wendy Shook	Court Administrator
Patricia Bosmans	City Attorney
Barbara Hughes	City Clerk
Audrey Young	City Treasurer
John Doan	Comm. Development Director
Jeff Flesner	Asst. Finance Director
John Fowler	Fire Chief
J. Ben Reisz	Police Chief
Bill Shoemaker	Acting Public Works Director
Mary Smith	Senior Center Director

City Staff Appointments

The City of Sumner welcomes the following new employees:

- Taryn Capps, Administrative Assistant, Community Development
- Connie Ellis, Animal Control Officer, Police
- David Eaton, Animal Control Officer, Police
- Nina Murphy, Police Officer
- Pennee Body, Communications Officer, Police
- Mark Mears, Sergeant, Police
- Loren Houselog, Detective, Police

Expansion Could Quadruple Size of Police Dept.

The Sumner City Council is considering a plan to significantly expand the size of City Hall by constructing a two-story addition on the south side of the facility. The primary focus of the improvements would be the increase the Police Department's space from the current 1,700 square feet to up 7,000 s.f. and triple the office space for Municipal Court. The expansion would add space for the Police Department in every aspect, including an evidence room, locker rooms, break room, expanded offices and records areas, and a training/conference room which could be used as an emergency operations center.

The expansion would provide space to cover the needs of the City for at least the next 10 years. The cost of the expansion and additional parking is estimated at \$1.6 million. The City Council will decide in February how the City will pay for

the project which will determine when the construction project will commence. Limited improvements upstairs would provide offices and meeting rooms for Community Development, Public Works, Legal and Administration. More space would also be provided downstairs for the Finance Department.

The City is exploring options for adding parking at City Hall, including the prospects of purchasing adjoining property. Sumner City Hall was built in 1928 when the City's population was 1,426. Sumner's population today is 8,200 and growing rapidly. Although some improvements were made to the building in early 1997, City Hall's last major remodel was in 1993 when the Sumner Fire Department moved from City Hall to its new location at 800 Harrison Street. The addition will be designed to complement the most recent remodeling work.

Changes in Utilities Rates Effective Jan. 1, 1999

Sumner utility customers will notice changes in utility rates on their bills effective January 31, 1999. Based on the old water rate structure, the average monthly residential customer's billing would have been \$11.74. Under the new rate structure, the average monthly residential water rate will increase to \$12.43 (approximately 6.0% increase).

Sewer rates have undergone the most significant change. Instead of the City maintaining its current flat rate billing system, the sewer utility will charge for sewer service based on a combination of base rate and usage (water consumption). In order to stabilize the sewer rates throughout the year, the rates will be capped based on the average water consumed in the winter (December through March). Based on the old flat rate structure, a single family utility customer's sewer bill would have been \$24.86.

Under the new sewer rate structure, the average monthly rate will be \$27.37 (approximately 10% increase).

All rates for water, sewer and storm drainage are tied to an inflation indicator to ensure the utility rates/revenue keep up with inflation and the general expenses of operating our utilities. The refuse utility rates will increase by an average of 11% based on recent increases imposed by D.M. Disposal Company. As a result of the closure of the local landfill and need to provide long hauling of refuse, an increase of more than 22% in landfill rates in Pierce County for solid waste is being imposed which D.M. Disposal passes directly onto its municipal customers.

If you have any utility billing questions, please feel free to call the Sumner Utilities/Finance Department at 826-9400 or 863-8300.

1999 Budget Funds Capital Projects, Department Objectives

The 1999 City budget totals \$48,835,783 compared to \$33,996,392 in 1998, which represents a 43.6% increase. The total budget is comprised of 38 separate funds which includes four new funds and the deletion of five old funds. The most significant funding increases in the 1999 City budget are primarily attributed to budgeting local improvement district (LID) debt service expenses, transportation and utility projects, a new City shop, and continued increased funding support for public safety (fire, police and municipal court). While transportation system planning, construction and improvements would continue to be a major objective in next year's programming, the City is going to primarily focus on "finishing what we have started." Although the City's focus will be on completing many capital projects in 1999, this year is going to be an extraordinarily busy year with the departments identifying more than 510 objectives to be accomplished.

Over the last few years, the City of Sumner has been in the process of planning, securing funds and designing a considerable number of street improvements and utility projects. The City has completed many of these projects in 1998 (Valley Avenue, Washington Street, Graham Street, 62nd Street East, and the street chip seal program); however, many projects which are in progress need to be completed next year. In 1999, the City will be focused on the following:

1. Complete 142nd Avenue East and bridge construction;
2. Design and initiate construction for the expansion of the sewer treat plant;
3. Construct a new city shop and storage facility;
4. Pursue the expansion of the City Hall site to accommodate the Police Department and other City departments' space needs for the next 10 years.
5. Complete the water reservoir and 24th Street/Stuck River pedestrian/trail bridge project; and
6. Design and construct numerous street improvement projects (Traffic Avenue, Zehnder Street, 53rd Street, Puyallup Street, Pacific Avenue and the West Sumner neighborhood street improvements).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUND

The 1999 General Government budget of \$5,984,116 reflects a 5.1% increase over the 1998 budget. The most visible source of revenue within the City's General Government fund is the Property Tax which can be increased by up to 6% over the previous year's property tax budget. Due to the City Council's action to limit the increase in property taxes to 2% above the previous year's property tax resources, the increase in actual property tax revenue will be limited to approximately \$27,720 over last year's tax level. The other two major tax sources for General Government are sales tax and utility excise taxes. These three tax sources will comprise more than 78% of the entire revenue source for General Government.

A high priority will continue to be placed on enhancement to funding criminal justice and public safety services, in addition to a priority being placed on increasing the police department and municipal court spaces.

The most distinguishable objectives in the 1999 General Government budget are as follows:

1. Funding two new full-time and two new part-time positions: Police Records Clerk (contingent upon the consolidation of public safety communications with Puyallup), Public Works Specialist, part-time Court Clerk position;
2. \$216,362 increase in criminal justice and public safety funding;
3. planned expansion of Police Department and other city government space, including acquisition of additional property for employee and customer parking;
4. consolidation of public safety communication with the City of Puyallup;
5. allocation of \$400,000 in funding for street maintenance/improvement projects; and
6. pursuing parks, facilities, infrastructure and recreation monies through the new part-time Parks/Facilities Project Manager position.



Mike Connor Reappointed to City Council

Mike Connor

Mike Connor has been appointed to the Sumner City Council to fill the position vacated by Kathy Fewins who recently moved to Enumclaw. Mr. Connor previously served on the City Council from 1991 to 1998. He left the Council after an unsuccessful run for mayor in fall 1997.

Mr. Connor works at Utility Vault Co. in Auburn and has lived in Sumner for 20 years. He is married and has two adult children. Mr. Connor fills an unexpired term and must run for the position in the next general election in fall 1999.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

JANUARY

JANUARY 11

City Council Study Session
6 p.m., Council Chambers

JANUARY 13

Forestry Commission
4 p.m., Council Chambers

JANUARY 18

City offices
closed for
Martin Luther
King Jr.
Birthday



JANUARY 19

City Council Regular Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers

JANUARY 21

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers

JANUARY 25

City Council Study Session

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1

City Council Regular Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers

FEBRUARY 2

Forestry Commission
4:30 p.m., Council Chambers

FEBRUARY 3

Sumner University
6 p.m., Dieringer School

FEBRUARY 4

Planning Commission
7 p.m., Council Chambers

FEBRUARY 8

City Council Study Session
6 p.m., Council Chambers

FEBRUARY 10

Sumner University
6 p.m., Dieringer School

FEBRUARY 15

City offices closed for
President's Day

FEBRUARY 16

City Council Regular Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH

MARCH 1

City Council Regular Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 3

Forestry Commission
4:30 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 4

Planning Commission
7 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 8

City Council Study Session
6 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 15

City Council Regular Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 18

Design Commission
6 p.m., Council Chambers

MARCH 22

City Council Study Session
6 p.m., Council Chambers

Sumner Web Site

The use of the City's web site is growing. There were over 1,000 hits in November. The most recent addition was the posting of job announcements and the availability of employment applications which can be downloaded. The web site now includes City Council agendas and minutes, updated photographs, and links to Sumner School District information.

The web site can be accessed at:
www.ci.sumner.wa.us



25 Ways to Show Kids You Care

Everyone in a community can make a difference in the lives of children and youth. Even if you don't think you can tackle tough problems such as violence, alcohol and other drug use, or school problems, you can make a difference by being a caring, responsible friend for young people. Need some ideas for what you can do? Here are 25 of them:

1. Notice them.
2. Smile a lot.
3. Acknowledge them.
4. Learn their names.
5. Seek them out.
6. Remember their birthday.
7. Ask them about themselves
8. Look in their eyes when you talk to them.
9. Listen to them.
10. Play with them.
11. Read aloud together.
12. Giggle together.
13. Be nice.
14. Say yes a lot.
15. Tell them their feelings are okay.
16. Set boundaries that keep them safe.
17. Be honest.
18. Be yourself.
19. Listen to their stories.
20. Hug them.
21. Forget your worries sometimes and concentrate only on them.
22. Notice when they're acting differently.
23. Present options when they seek your counsel.
24. Play outside together.
25. Surprise them.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

New DUI Laws Take Effect

The 1998 Legislature passed several bills to strengthen DUI laws in Washington, many of which took effect Jan. 1, 1999. One new law lowers the threshold for convicting a motorist of driving under the influence from .10 percent blood-alcohol level to .08 percent. In 1997, the City of Sumner and several other cities adopted the lower .08 percent threshold but a state Supreme Court decision caused the cities to return the level to .10 percent; however, the cities' action was one factor that prompted the Legislature to adopt the lower limit statewide.

Other new DUI laws mostly deal with the sentencing guidelines for first, second and third-time offenders. Two bills combined to allow judges to the discretion to place first-time offenders on electronic monitoring and to mandate offender-paid electronic home detention for every second and third time DUI offender. In Sumner, the cost is \$12 for electronic home detention, paid by the offender. Third-time offenders can be sentenced to up to 150 days. A new DUI law also allows a judge to require that a electronic motoring device include a breathalyzer device that can prevent a vehicle from being operated. A judge can also restrict the amount of alcohol the offender may consumer during the time the offender is on electronic monitoring.

In Sumner, much of the impact of the new DUI laws will likely be felt in Municipal Court, depending on the number of violations turned over by the Police Department. Police and Court personnel hope the new laws will have a preventative effect and result in fewer DUI cases. However, the workload for Municipal Court could increase because the laws require that courts retain limited jurisdiction in DUI cases for five years, compared to the current two years. This will require increased record-keeping and tracking of offenders.

Red means STOP

One of the leading causes of traffic accidents in cities is drivers running red-lights. Sumner police indicate that "running the red" is a growing and alarming trend in Sumner. The law requires that a vehicle be completely clear of the intersection when the signal turns to red. Traffic signals are programmed so that the traffic signal in the opposite direction turns green at the same instant as the other turns red. Some drivers not only fail to stop but accelerate when the light is changing. This significantly increases the likelihood for injury or death.

Sumner police will be stepping up enforcement of traffic signals in the coming months.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pancake Feed Raises \$3,000

The Sumner Fire Department raised about \$3,000 and served 300 people at its third annual charity pancake feed on Saturday, Dec. 5. This was the Fire Department's most popular pancake feed ever with more than 40 pounds of pancake mix and 9 hams consumed. With the proceeds, Fire Department staff bought toys and household supplies for 140 needy families in the Sumner area. The list of the families, plus "wish lists" from the children, were provided by a local church.

Santa Comes to Town



Santa made some pre-Christmas rounds through Sumner neighborhoods on Dec. 14, 16 and 17 riding on a City fire truck. Santa greeted residents while Fire Department personnel handed out candy canes and collected food items for the Sumner Food Bank.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree



The weekend of January 9 and 10, residents can bring their Christmas trees to the field next to the Fire Station on the corner of Harrison Street and Narrow Avenue. The trees should be free of all decorations, nails or wire. They will be put into a chipper and made into mulch. Residents are invited to take the mulch for use in their landscaping.

Residents are asked to bring a food item or money donation for the Sumner Food Bank when they bring their Christmas tree for chipping. Holiday wreaths are also accepted. Items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Happy New Year!

Downtown Sumner Gets Lit Up for the Holidays

Downtown Sumner was once again lit up for the holidays thanks to the efforts of the Sumner Promotion Association, American Medical Response (AMR), and the City of Sumner. The three organizations shared the costs of purchasing and installing more than 4,000 holiday lights that lined Main Street and Alder Avenue.



Stuck River Bridge was festive sight.

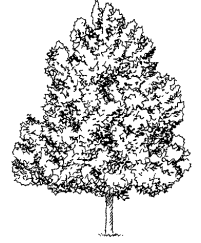
The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse bought and installed 5,000 lights that covered the Stuck River Bridge downtown. The Old Cannery also paid to have power extended to the west end of the bridge to run the lights.

Holiday lights was a longtime tradition in downtown Sumner until the oil shortages in the early 1970s when the practice was stopped to save energy. About 15 years ago the Sumner Rotary Club began installing garlands across Main Street for the holidays, but lights weren't added until this holiday season.

It has been a priority to make downtown Sumner more festive to enhance the community and attract shoppers. The City hopes that the lighting can be extended to the business district at the eastern portion of Main Street in future years.

New Ordinance Regulates Street Trees

The City passed a new ordinance which regulates the trees in the street right-of-way and on public places. The new ordinance establishes the rules and procedures for planting and maintaining street trees. The primary purpose of the ordinance is to assist property owners and developers in planting the correct street trees. By planting the right tree in the right place and properly caring for them, it can be ensured that trees enhance the community while not damaging streets, utilities, and property.



In addition to regulations for street trees, the ordinance provides for procedures for the removal of street trees and trees in parks. Unless it is an emergency, there will be notice of the potential tree removal posted on the tree. People concerned about the tree may appeal the decision to remove or not remove to the City's Hearing Examiner. The ordinance was adopted in November after a year of work with the Forestry Commission and the City Arborist.

Ordinance highlights include:

- ▶ Certain streets have designated street trees (portions of Main, Alder, Thompson, Kincaid, Cherry, Valley, Graham, Washington, 77th, 147th, 148th, 62nd, and 55th) and new street trees must match the ones which are designated.
- ▶ Planting, removal, and major maintenance of trees requires a street-tree permit. The permits are free and are available at City Hall.
- ▶ Planting distances from driveways, streets and alleys, power poles, signs, and other street features are specified.
- ▶ Adjacent property owners are responsible for the maintenance of most street trees, except on portions of certain streets (Main, Cherry, Kincaid, Graham, Washington, Alder, Traffic, and Thompson).
- ▶ When new development occurs or new streets developed, street trees are required.
- ▶ Variances from the standards may be granted by the City's Hearing Examiner.

The City has begun budgeting money within the annual Street Fund for the care of street trees. Each year, a contract will be awarded to a private landscape service to begin maintenance of street trees. As this initial work is completed, the list of trees where the City assumes responsibility will expand.

Here are examples of streets trees planted recently:

- Sugar Tyme Crabapple (Sumner Avenue along Loyalty Park)
- Goldenchain (Thompson Street)
- Japanese snowbell (Heritage Park along Kincaid)
- Parrotia (Ambar Avenue and Valley Avenue at Meade-McCumber)
- Autumn Blaze Flowering Pear (Kincaid and Cherry Ave. at Heritage Park)
- Crimson Sentry Maple (Main Street downtown)
- Raywood Ash (62nd Street)
- Chanticleer Flowering Pear (154th Ave. and Alder Avenue)
- Green Vase Zelkova (Washington Street)

The City has a list of more than 70 types of trees that may be planted as street trees depending on the site conditions. Contact the Permit Center for information. Many of these trees are available from local nurseries.

Mike
Connor

Kris
Coppin

Dave
Enslow

Mark
Evers

Leroy
Goff

Stuart
Scheurman

Ron
Scholz

Sumner Pool at High School is Open to All Residents

The Sumner Pool offers a refreshing way to burn off some off those extra calories from the holidays. This large indoor pool is open to all Sumner residents and offers a warm and comfortable exercising environment. After swimming some laps in the 25-yard pool, practice your dives in the special diving pool, pump some iron in the weight room or relax in the large therapy pool.

The Sumner Pool is part of the Sumner High School complex, located behind the Performing Arts Center and accessible from Mason Street. The facility is used by the high school for its P.E. and special education curriculum during school hours, but is open to the general public before and after school. The pool opens as early as 5 a.m., and closes at 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$2.50 for a drop-in session, or \$20 for a 10-visit pass.

The City of Sumner's Recreation Department offers a variety of activities at the pool, including group and private swim lessons for all age groups. "Water Aerobics With a Beat" is offered at two levels, twice a week. An aerobics session for seniors is being offered through the Sumner Senior Center. (Please call the Senior Center at 863-2910 for information.) Youth water polo classes are being planned for spring. The pool is a popular place for



The pool is open to the public Monday - Saturday.

birthday parties and other group events. It is available for private rental after 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The cost is \$60 an hour for up to 25 swimmers.

The pool is owned by the Sumner School District and jointly operated by the School District and City. Becky Giles, the City's Community Recreation and Education Coordinator, manages the pool. The Sumner Pool was built in 1969 and remodeled in 1986. Last summer the main drain line was replaced and the fiberglass pool lining was replaced with plaster, which gives the pool water a clean, blue appearance.

For additional information about the Sumner Pool, please call the pool office at 891-5550.



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