



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

FREE!

Public Invited to Annual Community Summit

“Building Our Community” is the theme for the 11th Annual Sumner-Bonney Lake Area Communities For Families Coalition Community Summit planned for Thursday, March 18, at Sumner Presbyterian Church, 1915 Washington Street.

The purpose of the summit is to bring together community members and leaders to examine new opportunities for community engagement and to address issues of concern for youth and adults.

Following a dinner and keynote speech by Jim Diers, Director of Seattle’s South Downtown Foundation, participants will break up into focus groups to discuss specific areas of concern: youth recreation opportunities, job development and work-based learning opportunities for youth, the Sumner Summer Concert Series, homelessness and adequate housing, the City of Sumner’s new Community Grant program, discussion around a community center in Bonney Lake and substance abuse in the community.

“People will walk away with the knowledge and skills to help create growth and change in the community, especially as it relates to supporting children, youth and families,” says Marilee Hill-Anderson, coordinator of the summit.

The forum is open to all community members. There will be participation by key elected community leaders, and officials from the city, school district, and health department. Also participating will be members of the Youth Advisory Council and student representatives from area schools.

Dinner and summit activities begin at 5:15 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. A pre-summit workshop begins at 3:15 p.m. Preregistration is required.

There is no charge. Forms are available at Sumner City Hall. The Sumner School District administration building at 1202 Wood Ave., or by calling (253) 891-6066.

Community Matching Grants Available

The City of Sumner is proud to announce a new Community Matching Grant program available to Sumner community groups to bring citizens and businesses together to solve problems and enhance the community. The program was adopted by the Sumner City Council in February.

The 2004 budget includes funding to help the community realize small capital projects and civic improvements by providing a 50/50 funding match. Stronger communities are built by people working together as a community to communicate and strengthen social ties between one another. These funds, along with the commitment and participation of the community, are intended to mutually benefit all Sumner residents.

A total of \$15,000 has been allocated for 2004 to support the matching grant program. The City match for a single neighborhood project can range from \$250 to \$7,500. Projects can include, but are certainly not limited to, community events, community gardens, play equipment, and tree planting. Projects would be located on public property or a public easement for the benefit of the entire community. Groups match their fund request by providing volunteer labor implementing the project, generating in-kind gifts, by raising cash from local businesses, or through a combination of sources.

The application deadline for 2004 matching grants is May 3, 2004. Applications will be reviewed by the Parks Board and funds will be awarded based on application and project quality, support of the surrounding community, availability of the communities funding match, and other criteria that are explained further in the Applicant Guide.

The Sumner Community Matching Grant - Applicant Guide and Application Form are available in PDF format on the City of Sumner website. Follow the link on the City’s web page at <http://ci.sumner.wa.us>. The form is also available at the permit counter at City Hall. For information, please call Robert Holler at (253) 891-3300 or email roberth@ci.sumner.wa.us.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We are on the verge of my favorite season – Spring. The days are longer, warmer, and brighter and the daffodils are getting taller by the minute. In other words, it must be parade time in Sumner!



Barbara Skinner

Sunday, March 14th at 1 pm, is the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We'll see our local Irish leprechaun (Jim Agan), our local Irish doctor (Pat Duffy), the "Irish llamas", and lots of Irish people (some honorary but all wearing green).

Saturday, April 17th at 3 p.m. is the 71st Annual Daffodil Parade. For you newer residents, this annual parade starts in Tacoma, then comes to Puyallup, Sumner and Orting, with bands, decorated floats, dignitaries, marching units, clowns, horses, and people, all there to welcome spring and celebrate the favorite flower of the Puyallup Valley.

2004 is already a busy year in Sumner. Improvements on downtown Main Street have started and soon we'll see new trees, street lights, etc., from the train station to Wood Avenue. The 24th Street Interchange on SR 167 is making great progress and will be close to completion this fall. Sumner School District's new Administration Building is a beautiful, brick two-story building of traditional styling, built behind Wade Calavan Elementary School (which will be removed), and it already seems to fit into Sumner as though it's been here forever. Our "Sumner Reads Together" program is great fun. I hope you've been taking part in the discussions.

As you may have noticed, Fred Meyer has opened their new store in Sumner. The buildings are attractive and we can purchase clothing or a pair of shoes in Sumner for the first time in a couple decades. We expect more traffic generated by Freddy's customers, but improvements have been made to the streets around the site and to the traffic light at Main and Valley to manage the traffic.

Sumner is a growing community and, while it's sometimes difficult to deal with change, change is inevitable. We want to preserve what we love about our community and we elect people to represent us who feel the same way. The City Council, City Staff and I are determined to maintain the "Sumner" feel of our town as people build houses and businesses around us.

We do our level best to interpret your wishes and take Sumner in the direction you want us to go and your comments always help. Please contact us at the numbers listed - but first, go plant a daffodil!

Mayor Barbara Skinner

St. Patrick's Day Parade is Sunday, March 14



A classic car rolls down Main Street in a past St. Patrick's Day parade.

Please join us for the 4th Annual St. Patrick's parade on Sun., March 14 at 1 p.m. The parade will start at Heritage Park, continue down Main St. and finish at the high school.

Afterwards, please join us for a dedication of the historical high school sign along with old high school alumni and sports photos. Refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by Sumner Promotions in conjunction with the Sumner School District and the Sumner Historical Society.

CITY OF SUMNER

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

MAYOR

Barbara Skinner 891-3318

CITY COUNCIL

Steve Allsop 891-3331
Curt Brown 891-3334
Mike Connor 891-3332
Dave Enslow 891-3338
Mark Evers 891-3330
Leroy Goff 891-3335
Matt Richardson 891-3336

CITY STAFF

Andrew Neiditz City Administrator
Steve Zamberlin Asst. City Administrator/
Human Resources
John Doan Asst. City Administrator/
Community Development & Parks
Wendy Shook Court Administrator
Patricia Bosmans City Attorney
Susan Clary City Clerk
Mary Ann Norquist Finance/Systems
Director
Steve Stringfellow Fire/Emergency
Services Director
Colleen Wilson Police Chief
Bill Shoemaker Public Works Director
Bruce Johnson Community/Senior Service
Manager

CITY OFFICES

Administration/Finance 863-8300
FAX 863-2850
Cemetery 863-6345
Court 863-7635
Fire (non-emergency) 863-5451
Golf Course 863-8198
Parks & Recreation 891-6500
Permit Center 863-1230
Police (non-emergency) 863-6384
Senior Center 863-2910
Utilities & Billing 826-9400

Website: www.ci.sumner.wa.us

**POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

A famous New England philosopher wrote about the need to "Simplify!" Perhaps, he knew that bureaucratic confusion would soon enough become the hallmark of many citizens' perceptions of their government.



Andrew Neiditz

Somewhat tongue-in-cheek, visualize this admonition at a Council meeting on a controversial topic:

"WE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN ANSWERING ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS AND THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE FOUND ONLY SERVE TO RAISE A WHOLE NEW SET OF QUESTIONS. IN SOME WAYS WE FEEL THAT WE ARE AS CONFUSED AS EVER, BUT WE BELIEVE WE ARE CONFUSED ON A HIGHER LEVEL, AND ABOUT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS."

So, in Sumner City Hall, we've embarked on a customer service initiative, which includes the willingness to help our customers and citizens sort out the confusion of governmental regulations. Whether it's in the processing of a building permit, the review of a utilities bill, or even the application for a passport, City staff will attempt to make our governmental processes more user-friendly.

We're even working on a new approach to our reception desk in our facility so that customers may be able to get more questions answered on the first floor immediately after they enter the building. We still have a long way to go, but the first step on this journey is the awareness that "simplify" is a worthwhile goal that makes matters more manageable for everyone.

Our police chief, one of the City's newer department directors, refers to "the Sumner Way" when she speaks of our community's emphasis on quality and connectedness. A new initiative on customer service at City Hall is consistent with "the Sumner Way."

So, we're looking for input and feedback, and would appreciate hearing back from our citizens and customers. If there's a City procedure with which you're involved and it seems too confusing, let us know. Send a note, give us a call, or email us, and we'll see whether we can practice what we preach.

Public Works Improvement Projects

Commuter Rail Access Project
Construction is underway on the commuter rail access project. Currently the contractor is installing the underground utilities on Cherry Street. Work will continue on Cherry Street for the next month as sidewalks are replaced and a new roadway is built. The project will also include new street and sidewalk lighting on Main Street and Alder. Construction is to continue until the end of March.

Valley Avenue East
This project will widen Valley Avenue East from the Bridge Street Bridge to Huston Road. The project will include the construction of two new traffic signals to improve safety and the railroad crossing. The project design is nearly complete. The City is working with the railroad to purchase right-of-way. It will be under construction late this spring. Project completion is expected by the end of fall this year.

Fryar Avenue Bridge Improvements

This project will repair one of the bridge abutments, reconstruct the bridge approaches and install new safety railing. The construction design is completed but waiting for final Federal approval before bids can be requested. This project is expected to be under construction in late spring this year.

Bridge Street Bridge Maintenance Project

The Bridge Street bridge project will repair damaged structural components and repaint the Bridge Street Bridge. The project plans and specifications are currently being prepared. This project is scheduled to begin by mid summer 2004.

24th Street/North Sumner Interchange

The interchange construction is continuing. Currently the contractor is placing material over 24th Street and continuing with Highway 167's overpass construction. This project is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer.

Sumner Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Work on this project is building the large tank structures. Over the next few months, several new equipment buildings will be started. The project is on schedule and at this time is to be completed by the end of summer 2005.

Tacoma / Puyallup Intersection Improvement Project

The City is currently preparing plans to reconstruct this intersection. Improvements will include reconstructed roadway, sidewalk modifications and enlarged curves to ease truck movement through the intersection.

Cyprus/Wood Area Sidewalk Construction

The City is preparing plans to construct sidewalks in the Cyprus / Wood area. Actual construction locations have not been determined. It is expected that this project will be constructed by the end of summer 2004.

Water System Fluoridation Equipment Installation

The City's water department is currently installing the fluoridation equipment at the City's water sources. It is anticipated that this work will be completed this spring.

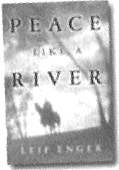
Spring Cleanup



Sumner's annual Spring Clean-up takes place March 29 - April 2. This is your chance to dispose of unwanted items and yard waste free of charge. Watch for information and coupons in your utility bills. The City encourages residents to take advantage of this program as it will continue to keep Sumner one of the most clean and recognized cities in Washington.

SUMNER READS TOGETHER 2004

COME JOIN US! The two book discussions and one program have been highly successful for the city-wide exploration of *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. There is still time to join with your neighbors by attending a fun and interactive discussion group for this interesting book.



Copies of the book are still available to borrow at the Sumner Library and for sale at "AGOOD BOOK" on Main Street and other book sources.

The "Sumner Reads Together 2004" Program is co-sponsored by the Sumner Arts Commission and the Pierce County Library System with partnerships and support by Dillanos

Coffee, The News Tribune and other in-kind donations.

All events are held at the Sumner Library and open to the public without charge. They are designed to be of interest to both those who have read the book and for those who have not yet had the opportunity.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the events!

Upcoming events include:

- March 24th at 7:00 p.m., book discussion
- April 6th at 7:00 p.m. The Tahoma Range Rhymers will broaden our appreciation of cowboy poetry.

Help Plant Trees at Heritage Park

Join fellow community members on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, and help plant trees at Heritage Park in downtown Sumner.

There is no need to preregister. Just drop by Heritage Park at 9 a.m. and you will be put to work beautifying this downtown park. Work gloves and tools will be provided. Heritage Park is on Cherry Street just off Main Street.



The event is part of county-wide Parks Appreciation Day where residents in communities throughout Pierce County will be in their neighborhood parks, sprucing limbs, grooming grounds, combing beaches and planting more flowers and trees. It is held in conjunction with Arbor Day.



Sumner Food Bank Extends Hours

The Sumner Community Food Bank, at 15625 Main St. E., has extended its hours and now is open every Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. Regular hours for clients to receive food are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1-3 p.m., and Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m. Clients are served by appointment or walk-in.

The generous support from the Sumner community has provided the food bank with enough food and volunteers to add these extra serving hours. Funds were raised by Sumner Rotary's golf tournament "Food Bank Scramble" and donations given directly to the Sumner Community Food Bank.

For further details, please contact Robyn DeLorm at (253) 863-8136.



The siren is next to the high school football stadium

Warning Siren Testing

Pierce County Emergency Management will be conducting a test of the outdoor warning sirens that would be used to alert citizens in the event of a lahar mudflow. The test is slated to occur on Monday, May 17th, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. This test will involve the outdoor warning siren located near Sumner High School in addition to the other sirens located at McAlder Elementary School, McMillan, Orting, Puyallup and Fife. Other parts of the emergency broadcast system will be tested at this time as a part of the outdoor warning siren test.

Buy a Heritage Park Paver

Why not purchase a brick paver as a memorial for a loved one or become a permanent part of Reuben Knoblauch Heritage Park. Located around the dance floor in front of the gazebo, these pavers are an exciting and lasting way to leave your mark on the community. The cost is only \$35.00 for each paver and you may order as many pavers as you want.

For more information, please contact Sally Abrams at (253) 891-3303 or email at sallya@ci.sumner.wa.us.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

MARCH

MARCH 15

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

MARCH 17

Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police Conference room

MARCH 22

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

MARCH 25

Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference

APRIL

APRIL 1

Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

APRIL 5

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

APRIL 8

Forestry Commission,
4 p.m., Upstairs conference room

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers

APRIL 12

Parks Committee,
5 p.m., Upstairs conference room

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

APRIL 19

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

APRIL 21

Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police Conference room

APRIL 22

Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference room

APRIL 26

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

MAY

MAY 3

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

MAY 6

Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

MAY 10

Parks Committee,
5 p.m., Upstairs conference room

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

MAY 13

Forestry Commission,
4 p.m., Upstairs conference room

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers

MAY 17

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

MAY 19

Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police Conference room

MAY 24

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

MAY 27

Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference room

MAY 31

Memorial Day,
City Hall closed

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH

- March 14** Annual St. Patrick's Parade, 1:00 p.m., Heritage Park down Main St.
- March 18** Community Summit, Sumner Presbyterian Church, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- March 19** Daffodil Coronation, Church of All Nations, Tacoma, 7:00 p.m.
- March 24** Sumner Reads Together 2004 book discussion, 7:00 p.m., Sumner Library

APRIL

- April 3** Junior Daffodil Parade, 10:00 a.m., Tacoma
- April 6** Sumner Reads Together 2004 program "Tahoma Range Rhymers", 7:00 p.m., Sumner Library

April 10

Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt,
9:00 a.m.- noon at SHS Stadium



April 15-18

Puyallup Spring Fair

April 17

71st Annual Daffodil Parade, 3 p.m. in Sumner

April 24

Parks Appreciation Day / Arbor Day; 10:00 a.m.;
Heritage Park

MAY

May 31

Memorial Veteran's Ceremony, 10:00 a.m. at
Cemetery

City Council Decides to Keep Golf Course

The City Council has decided to keep the Sumner Meadows Golf Course. After reviewing the course performance and operations, along with alternatives to sell the property for development, the Council has elected to keep the course. The course has struggled since opening in 1995 because of the slow economy, construction on Stewart Road, and a decline of golfing nationwide.



Sumner Meadows will remain a golf course.

The course was planned a decade ago to both protect open space, provide recreational opportunities and to support the wastewater treatment plant. Unfortunately, the use for sewage disposal turned out not to be feasible.

The City will immediately begin looking for a private partner who can work with the City to improve the facility, provide a new clubhouse, and operate the course. The City will also be reviewing over the next two months what the fate is of the land south of the course. The approximately 60 acres could be available for a housing development or a small industrial area. The City may also seek grants to fund the long-term protection of this area as open space.

During the past couple months, the City heard significant support for keeping the golf course. Although a small number of citizens golf, supporters included those who saw value in saving the open space during a time of rapid growth. Because of the existing debt on the golf course, selling the course to a long-term golf course operator was not an option. The City looked at several proposals which included a major industrial development with commercial along Stewart Road and industrial behind it, or a large residential development.

For additional information about the course, visit the City's website and click on recreation. For information about the status of the course, please contact Parks and Facilities Manager Lee Anderson at (253) 826-9420 or email him at leea@ci.sumner.wa.us.

City calls 'Time Out' on Multi-family Structures

In order to allow for time to adequately study potential changes to the City's zoning regulations, the City Council adopted an interim development regulation that prohibits new applications for multi-family residential structures.

The interim regulation applies to all of the City except the Town Center, where there is currently a significant planning effort to provide additional housing opportunities. As required by State law, permits that were already pending were not effected by the change. A public hearing on the interim regulation will be part of the April 5th City Council meeting.

The interim regulation will remain in effect for at least six months while the City Council and Planning Commission

complete work on the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Property owners with multi-family zoned land can still pursue development with alternative housing types using small lots or detached cottages. The ordinance also prohibits new applications for multi-plex homes in Low Density Residential zones. These types of small multi-family structures were intended to provide a mix of housing in neighborhoods, similar to what exists in the downtown core. During the next six months the City will study the degree to which the multi-plex home concept has been successful.

For additional information about the regulation or the Comprehensive Plan Update, contact Ryan Windish at (253) 891-3301 or ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us.

Community Survey Results Tabulated

The results are in! About 370 people responded to the Community Survey that was distributed in the December newsletter. The results will be used to assist in updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and determining what topics are priorities for amending or changing. Staff is preparing a final report and analysis of the results. For a copy of the report contact: Ryan Windish at ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us or call (253) 891-3301.

The overall rating of Sumner's quality of life in the results was good to excellent. The following are some interesting facts:

- When asked which aspects of the Sumner community contributed to improving their quality of life, the majority of the responses pointed to parks and a "sense of community," followed closely by the environment and events.

- Traffic ranks the highest among aspects of the community that has contributed the most to decreasing the quality of life in Sumner.

- Regarding housing, the majority of the respondents said that they would like to see more single-family residential and less apartments and mobile homes. The responses were fairly evenly split between a desire for town homes and condominiums.

- A significant majority (82%) of the respondents do not have anyone in their household riding the commuter train.

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents have "Never" used the Sumner golf course or don't golf. When asked how valuable they believe it is to retain the golf course, approximately 43% said it was "Valuable" to "Extremely Valuable".

- Overall the responses pointed to a relatively high sense of personal safety during the day at home, downtown, and in parks. The sense of personal safety was somewhat lower for parks and downtown at night. At home at night still ranked "safe" or "very safe".

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Police Department Serves Residents 24-Hours-a-Day

Community Connections is profiling the various departments in the City of Sumner. This month is the Police Department.

As the Sumner community has grown over the years, so has its Police Department. Once a small town, part-time police force, today it a 24-hour force that provides the full gamut of police services to the community.

The Police Department has 32 full-time and four part-time employees, including 19 commissioned officers and 10 communications officers. Police Chief Colleen Wilson oversees the entire department while Lt. Wes Tucker commands the Operations Divisions that includes investigators, sergeants and patrol officers.

Other department divisions include animal control services which are conducted jointly with the City of Puyallup. Under an agreement, Puyallup provides Sumner jail services, while Sumner pays for animal control for both cities.



Police department members pictured at a recent awards banquet are top row, from left: Pamela Mandery, Jason Temple, Kenny Hill, Loren Houselog, Chad Kiblinger, Dave Strader, Ryan Wyrwitzke and Barb Schmeizer. Middle row: Erica Brown, Nikki Thawsh, Marsha McGehee, Wes Tucker, Bonnie Lugo, Matt Kurlle, Matt Watson, Glen Whaley, Mark Mears, Dennis Dorr, Tony Richardson, Troy Nikolao, Ron Lawson and Chief Colleen Wilson. Bottom row: Alice Jacobson, Rhonda Hopkins, Amy Parker, Lisa DeGrandis and Bambi Thawsh.

The Police Department also has an evidence technician, parking enforcement officer, school resource officer, communications and record technicians.

Not all police services are provided in-house. The Sumner Police Department partners with other public safety agencies for special services such as SWAT teams. A number of surrounding cities have collaborated to form one SWAT

team that can be called in to situations in each city. Sumner provides two members for that team.

Other police agencies work with the Sumner Police Department. For example, the State Patrol is sometimes called in to investigate traffic fatalities, and the FBI assists with bank robberies.

Assist Your Police Department by Serving as a Volunteer

The Sumner Police Department recently put out a call for volunteers from the community who would like to help the department in various ways, whether it be filing records or driving around town in a Citizens Patrol program.

The response from the community was good, says Chief Colleen Wilson, and today there are seven people serving as volunteers, some doing clerical work and computer entry, and others participating in the patrols.

The Citizens Patrol is a new program in Sumner that has been successfully implemented in other cities. After thorough training, the citizen patrollers drive around the community in a car provided by the police department, clearly marked as a "Citizens Patrol" vehicle.

The patrollers are extra eyes and ears for the Police Department. They check on houses where residents have informed the department they are away on vacation, and look for suspicious activities in business parking lots, neighborhoods, alleys and other places around town. They have no enforcement powers; if they see something suspicious, they immediately call a regular police officer to respond.

The Citizens Patrol also is being used to staff the mobile traffic radar machines placed around the city to inform drivers of their speeds. The volunteers will record the license numbers of speeding vehicles, and those drivers will be sent friendly reminders (not infractions) from the city about safe driving with the hopes that drivers will slow down the next time they are on that particular roadway.

The Police Department welcomes more citizens who are willing to commit at least eight hours a month as a police volunteer. For information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact the Police Department at 863-6384.

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



*Steve
Allsop*



*Curt
Brown*



*Mike
Connor*



*Dave
Enslow*



*Mark
Evers*



*Leroy
Goff*



*Matt
Richardson*

COUNCIL ACTIONS

JANUARY

- Adopted Resolution No. 1115 amending Council Rules changing the title of Mayor Pro-Tem to Deputy Mayor.
- Approved the 2004-2006 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 313.

FEBRUARY

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2073: Refuse Rate Increase.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2074: Interim Zoning Regulations.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2075: Interlocal Agreement with Drainage District 11.
- Adopted Resolution No. 1116: Community Matching Grant Program.

Ask Dr. Sumner



Where does our drinking water come from?



The City gets most of the water supply from springs located along the hillsides east of Sumner. These springs drain groundwater collected on the plateau above Sumner as far away as Enumclaw. Lake Tapps also provides some of that groundwater. In addition, the City uses several artesian wells located in valley to collect groundwater from deep below the City (about 250 feet down). These deep wells recharge at the flanks of Mt. Rainier.

Email your questions to drsumner@ci.sumner.wa.us

CITY OF SUMNER
1104 Maple St.
Sumner, WA 98390

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