



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Downtown Commuter Rail Access Project

The downtown Commuter Rail Access project is nearing completion. The work included with this project improves pedestrian access to the Sumner central business district by constructing new, wider sidewalks between the Sound Transit rail station and Main Street. The total project cost is about \$900,000. The federal government is paying about 70 percent of the cost and the City is paying the remainder.

The project includes the removal and replacement of existing sidewalks, replacing curb and gutter, installing new street trees and the installation



The 7-foot sidewalk along Cherry Street was replaced and widened to 10 feet.

of decorative street poles and sidewalk lighting.

The work done on Cherry Street reconstructed 500 feet of roadway, replaced the old 7' wide sidewalk with a new 10' wide sidewalk on the west side of the roadway. New streetlights and banner poles were installed as part of the project. In addition to the street improvements, the 50-year-old water line under the roadway was replaced with a new water line and the storm water line was extended approximately 350 feet

The work on Main Street replaced existing sidewalk that was broken and unsafe. Twelve new street trees were installed and 30 new streetlights were installed as part of the project. New banner poles are now installed at each end of Main Street.

The project was originally scheduled to finish at the beginning of April, but weather delays and the discovery of a water line in a different location have delayed the project completion. It is anticipated that the last concrete sidewalk on Alder Street will be poured and the lighting system completed and operational in May.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Mathews at (253) 891-3309 or email: brianm@ci.sumner.wa.us.



Speed humps were installed on Rivergrove Drive to slow traffic.

Rivergrove Drive Traffic Calming

Traffic calming has been installed along Rivergrove Drive in order to slow down speeders. The project consists of a combination of speed humps, crosswalk painting, and repainting of the street with a fog line and alternating on-street parking. The new striping visually narrows the drive aisle, rather than having the appearance of a wide-open road.

The traffic calming techniques will be tested for their effectiveness in the upcoming months and the speed results will be compared with those gathered before the traffic-calming project.

For information, contact Robert Holler at roberth@ci.sumner.wa.us or call (253) 891-3300.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As soon as I finish this column I have to leave for a conference in Portland where we will learn how cities can work better with others in our community, especially the School District. Actually, although there's always room for improvement, we do work well with our schools and I've always been very impressed with the cooperative attitude of our School Superintendent, Donald Eismann, and all the School Board members. Donald absolutely loves to find new and creative ways to make things happen in our schools and communities and when someone has a new idea he is delighted to discuss it.



Barbara Skinner

The Communities For Families cooperative effort, involving Bonney Lake and the School District, has been a way for those who provide services to connect with those who know where services are needed. The Sumner Family Center is another place where citizens of Sumner are able to find help when they need it. The SFC is supported by our cities and the school and by many people in our community.

We are a city of people who are gifted with lots of talent and with a pride in our community. We have people working through their church, Rotary or Kiwanis, and other service clubs and non-profits to help their neighbors in Sumner. In fact, the number of citizens in Sumner who contribute to the welfare of all of us through their time and talents makes this a great place to live.

Volunteers are critical to the success of most programs in Sumner that involve giving services to those most in need. In fact, we would be nowhere without these wonderful people who give their time to the Sumner Food Bank and to Little League and to the Sumner Arts Commission, etc. So, I'd like to suggest to you, as you read this column, that you put the column down and think about somewhere you could help to make this a better home town for all of us. If you don't know where to go to volunteer, give me a call at (253) 891-3318 and I'll be glad to help you figure out what you'd enjoy doing.

A town like Sumner didn't accidentally grow up here. It took people with pride in their community and a willingness to help make this a special place. Think about it - maybe you could join in the fun? Meanwhile, have a great spring!

Barbara Skinner



Sumner City Clerk Susan Clary was presented the award by Randy Reed, of the Washington State Municipal Clerks Association.

**City Clerk
Receives Award**

Susan Clary, Sumner City Clerk, received an award as a Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Association of Municipal Clerks at the Sumner City Council meeting on April 5, 2004. In order to be eligible for this award, you must maintain membership in the organization and complete three years of professional development coursework prior to becoming a Certified Municipal Clerk.

The award was presented by Randy Reed who is the City Clerk for the City of Medina, and a board member of the Washington State Municipal Clerks Association.

CITY OF SUMNER

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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

Sumner's pace of growth continues unabated. Now that the North Sumner Interchange on SR-167 is a certainty, with project completion scheduled for late summer or early fall, the industrial and commercial development in Sumner's north end continues at an aggressive pace.



Andrew Neiditz

The Summit Building was recently completed at 140th Avenue and 16th Street in the Sumner Corporate Park. It is just over 500,000 square feet in size, making it the largest building in our area. It houses Norvanco, which distributes Panasonic electronic equipment throughout the nation from its Sumner facilities. (The company occupies about 1,000,000 square feet of space in Sumner.)

The continued development of Sumner's tax base in the north end is a result of the responsible planning the City has done for many years. It ensures that funding for the quality of "community" that is so important to Sumner can be sustained. Sumner cares about its parks and its highly professional public safety services; recent budgets have reflected that concern.

Sumner's tax base provides for many other vital services and projects as well. The high-profile downtown pedestrian improvement project, with the help of some federal grant funds, will soon offer high quality sidewalks, planters, and street lighting along Main Street. As the City gears up to implement the City Council's high-priority sidewalk construction in other parts of the City, it serves as another major example of how Sumner will benefit from its development revenues.

Sumner residents should be aware of the potential impact of Initiative 864, which is still in the signature-gathering mode, but is targeted for this November's ballot. I-864 would reduce property tax to cities (local taxing jurisdictions) by 25 percent beginning in 2005. Of each property tax dollar paid in Washington State, about 12.6 cents goes to cities.

This year, property tax in Sumner is 32 percent of our general fund budget. The reduction to Sumner required by I-864, according to Department of Revenue estimates, would be \$655,600. Considering that public safety budgets (Police and Fire) are the largest parts of the general fund, it is likely that such a budget reduction would have direct impacts on those departments, as well as other basic services.

Andrew Neiditz

Economic Development Planning in Action

Economic planning commenced in February 2004 as the City decided to do significant public outreach to prepare for updating the Economic Development Sub-Element of our Comprehensive Plan. Sumner is a unique small town that is struggling with the concepts of sustainable economic development. Many people in the community do not want the character of Sumner to change; yet others realize that some change is necessary for survival and prosperity of the local economy.

The City of Sumner is very interested in knowing what kinds of policies it can enact to support the business community and the information needed to achieve this goal.

We distributed and tabulated an economic development survey that was mailed to over 200 Sumner businesses. The next step included a presentation to exhibit the survey results to the business community.

The Sumner Economic Development Summit 2004 was held on May 4th 2004 and included a brainstorming session with small groups of business leaders to come up with viable ideas that the City could implement.

After the summit, we will have enough data to prepare a written report for Sumner city planners. The last leg of this project will occur in July 2004 when specific policy recommendations will be presented to the Sumner City Council.

A desirable outcome of this whole process would be the different businesses in Sumner working together on a unifying growth strategy that is beneficial to all.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our mailing list for future updates, please call Sally Abrams at (253) 891-3303 or email her at sallya@ci.sumner.wa.us

COMINGS AND GOINGS

NEW HIRES

- ▶ **Loreen Grimberg**
Paramedic/Fire Fighter, Fire Department
- ▶ **Randy Larsen**
Communications Officer, Police Department
- ▶ **Michael Ryan**
Mechanic, Public Works Department
- ▶ **Hattie Strickland**
Communications Officer, Police Department

May is Here! Play Golf at Sumner Meadows

- ▶ Residents living within the city limits get 30 percent discount on all regular greens fees.
- ▶ 98390 zip code residents living outside the city limits get 20 percent off greens fees.
- ▶ Bring a friend living outside the 98390 areas and they will receive a 10 percent discount in the month of May.



JOIN OUR 2004 JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM TODAY – Junior Club members play for \$5 on a stand-by basis, no tee time, special discounts on merchandise and range balls.

For information call (253) 863-8198.



Sumner Arts Commission's Award-Winning Float

The Sumner Arts Commission designed and constructed the Sumner float this year for the Daffodil Festival. The daffodils on the back of the float were 8 feet high. The float was awarded the Daffodillians Award for the best use of daffodils on a float. It was a joint effort between the Arts Commission and the Sumner Promotion Association.

Citizens Can Sponsor Elements of New Park

With nicer weather, the construction process of the Eastside Park has begun with civil engineering planning work beginning. Installation of storm water systems, fill, and street improvements to Parker Road will be the first elements to take shape at the new park this summer.

In order to complete the park, the Community Development Department has assembled a park sponsor catalog, where businesses, families, or individuals can donate to sponsor elements of the park. Donations can help to sponsor all or part of benches, tables, playground equipment, and other park elements at various amounts. Those who do not want to sponsor a specific item can sponsor a "patch of the park" for \$50. Everyone who donates will have their name listed on a plaque, which will be located in the park when it is complete.

The park donation catalog is available on the City Of Sumner website from the link on the home page or at City Hall in the Community Development Department. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please call Robert Holler at (253) 891-3300 or email to roberth@ci.sumner.wa.us.

A Well-Placed Tree is a Beautiful Thing...

by Jackie Esselstrom, Forestry Commission Chair

As a landscape designer and garden consultant for Windmill Gardens in Sumner, I have been to hundreds of homes to give ideas and find solutions to a variety of gardening projects. Key elements of a garden design are trees. If carefully chosen, they can add substantial value to your property as well as complement your home.



Whether you live in an old, established urban neighborhood, or in a new high-density development, you probably have taken on the sometimes daunting task of renovating an existing garden or establishing a new one. The thoughtful selection and placement of appropriate trees for your project can provide beauty, shade, fragrance, privacy and bird habitat. Too often the hasty planting of a tree results in disappointment, excessive maintenance and sometimes possibly the expense of tree removal.

Here are a few suggestions to help you select the types of trees you may wish to include in your landscape for function as well as aesthetics and include my recommendations of appropriate trees for small urban lots. These specialty trees are most often available at local independent nurseries.

SMALL TREES FOR URBAN LOTS

Deciduous & Flowering Trees

Recommended varieties:
Korean Dogwood
All Japanese Maples

Forest Pansy Redbud
Golden Chain
Mimosa Silk Tree
Crape Myrtle

Conifers

Recommended varieties:
Mt. Hemlock
Hinoki Cypress 'Gracillis'
Boulevard Cypress
Moerheim Blue Spruce
Bristlecone Pine
Golden Arborvitae

Privacy Screens:

Recommended Varieties:
Hick's Yew
Emerald Green Arborvitae
Tiny Towers Italian Cypress

Japanese Camelia
Red Star Chamaecyparis
Blue Surprise Chamaecyparis

Dwarf and Espaliered Fruit Trees:

combination grafted trees pollinize themselves and give more variety to a small garden space. Available grafts:
Apples, Pears, Cherries, and Asian Pear

City Receives Planning Award

The City of Sumner received the Vision 2020 Award for exemplary planning from the Puget Sound Regional Council for the East Main Street Design Strategy.

Vision 2020 is a four-county growth, economic and transportation plan. Awards were given to 7 projects that illustrate the types of development and planning that can be applied region-wide. This is the second award received for the East Main Street Design Strategy which was adopted in 2002 and plans for a pedestrian-friendly Main Street east of Valley Avenue.

The City also received a Vision 2025 Award for the Daffodil Neighborhood in 1999 and for Fast Track Transportation Project in 2001.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

MAY

- MAY 24**
City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- MAY 27**
Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference
- MAY 31**
Memorial Day
City Hall closed

JUNE

- JUNE 3**
Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- JUNE 7**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- JUNE 10**
Forestry Commission,
4 p.m., Upstairs conference room

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- JUNE 14**
Parks Committee,
5 p.m., Upstairs conference room

City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- JUNE 16**
Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police training room
- JUNE 21**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

- JUNE 24**
Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference room

- JUNE 28**
City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers

JULY

- JULY 1**
Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- JULY 5**
City Hall closed
for July 4 holiday
- JULY 6**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police training room
- JULY 8**
Forestry Commission,
4 p.m., Upstairs conference room

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- JULY 12**
Parks Committee,
5 p.m., Upstairs conference room

City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- JULY 19**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- JULY 21**
Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police training room

- JULY 22**
Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference room

- JULY 26**
City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers

AUGUST

- AUGUST 2**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 5**
Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 9**
Parks Committee,
5 p.m., Upstairs conference room

City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 12**
Forestry Commission,
4 p.m., Upstairs conference room

Design Commission,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 16**
City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 18**
Youth Commission,
6 p.m., Police training room
- AUGUST 23**
City Council Study Session,
6 p.m., Council Chambers
- AUGUST 26**
Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Upstairs Conference room

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- MAY**
- May 31** Memorial Day Ceremony at cemetery, 10 a.m.

- JUNE**
- June 11** Sumner High School graduation, 7 p.m.
- June 26** Downtown Merchant's Sidewalk Sale, 10 a.m.

- JULY**
- July 4** Music off Main, 2 - 3 p.m., Heritage Park

- July 9** Music off Main, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Heritage Park
- July 11** Ice Cream Social at The Ryan House, 2 p.m.
- July 16** Music off Main, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Heritage Park
- July 23** Music off Main, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Heritage Park
- July 30** Music off Main, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Heritage Park

- AUGUST**
- Aug. 6, 7** Annual Sumner Arts Festival
- Aug. 13** Music off Main, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Heritage Park
- Aug. 20 & 21** Annual Relay for Life at SHS Stadium

Sumner Fire Department Offers Tips for a Fire-Safe Summer

As summer time is rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to outdoor and recreational activities. The Sumner Fire Department would like to offer you the following safety suggestions in order to keep your summer safe and enjoyable.

Barbecues & Outdoor Cooking

- Clean and inspect your barbecue before using it this summer. Remove excess grease accumulations and if it is a gas barbecue inspect all hoses and fittings to insure they are tight and not broken or worn.
- Never use gasoline as a starter fluid for a charcoal briquette barbecue.



- Never add lighter fluid to hot coals.
- Be sure to keep your barbecue clear from the eaves and sides of your home or apartment unit.
- Never use gas fired or charcoal barbecues indoors.

■ If using charcoal briquettes with your barbecue, remember to put the used briquette coals in a metal container and soak with water. Do not put them in a paper bag or leave them on a deck or next to the house as the coals that appear to be out can retain enough heat to start a fire for several days.

■ Have a bucket of water or hose handy in case of an emergency involving the barbecue.

Power Mowers and Power Tools

- Fuel your power equipment outdoors. After fueling, move the equipment about 10 feet from the fueling spot before starting the motor. This will move you out of the flammable vapors that might be present.
- Allow the motor to cool down before re-fueling.
- Always wipe up any spilled fuel and dispose of rags carefully. Always store gasoline in an approved safety container in a well ventilated area and never store gasoline in your living quarters.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent.

■ Keep everyone a safe distance from your work area to prevent injury from power tools.

Camping

■ Make sure that your tent is made of flame retardant fabric. If possible purchase a tent with two exits or with a window opening large enough to escape through.

■ NEVER use candles or matches inside a tent.

■ Be sure any heat producing equipment is kept away from the tent walls and any thing else inside the tent that can burn.

■ Build your fire downwind and far away from your tent.

■ Every campsite should keep a fire extinguisher or bucket of water handy in case of a fire.

■ If you carry fuel for your camp stove or lanterns in your car, be sure to take it out as soon as you arrive at your campsite. Be aware that flammable vapors can build up in your car's trunk.



Additional Fire Safety Tips

■ Use caution when using outdoor candles and outdoor Tiki torches. Keep ignition devices, matches and lighters in safe places that are out of the reach of children.

■ Keep trees and bushes trimmed away from all structures.

■ Maintain a well pruned and watered landscape, trim grass on a regular basis to serve as a green belt around your home and protection against fire during dry summer months.

■ Please don't discard cigarette or other smoking materials in beauty bark or along the roadway in dry grasses or shrubs. When conditions are dry, these discarded items will start fires.

■ Make sure that your address is clearly visible from the street for emergency responders.

For information, contact Sumner Fire Department at (253) 863-5451.

Sumner Police Taking Part in Torch Run for Special Olympics



Sumner police officers pose for a group picture with the Special Olympics team.

Each year law enforcement agencies in Washington participate in the "Law Enforcement Torch Run" for Special Olympics, a friendly competition among police agencies to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

Sumner police officers have scheduled everything from go-kart races to "cops on doughnut shops" to raise money for our Pierce County athletes. Torch runs from throughout the state will merge here in Sumner on June 4 and caravan to the opening ceremonies for Summer Games at McCord Air Force Base.

You can come to cheer on your local athletes and police officers - watch the paper for details! If you have any questions or would like further details, please contact Sumner Police Department at (253) 863-6384.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Sumner's Parks Crew Has Important Responsibility

The City's Parks Department crew has an important responsibility this time of year – keeping Sumner's parks attractive and inviting for the community to enjoy.

They're at it every weekday, bright and early, mowing, edging, weeding, pruning, fertilizing at one or more of Sumner's parks, or on the grounds at a public facility such as City Hall, the Senior Center or train station grounds.



Crew members are, from left, Fred Japhet, Jack Pearce, Kelly Jorgenson, Warren Peloli (department supervisor) and John Wells.

When the hanging flower baskets are put up along Main Street and elsewhere downtown, the Parks Department waters them nearly every day, a task that takes four to five hours to water the 130 baskets.

A Parks Department crew member works nearly full time at the Daffodil Sports Complex, maintaining the fields and getting them prepped for games and matches.

The Parks Department also installs landscaping and other improvements at new parks. They installed new planters and landscaping along Traffic Avenue next to the train station, and installed irrigation when Seibenthaler Park was developed and in Loyalty Park last year.

The crew is also called upon to perform minor jobs in City facilities, such as fixing electrical problems and moving furniture.

Working at the Parks Department is a year-round job. When winter comes and the grass stops growing, the tasks shift to tree and shrub pruning, storm clean-ups and equipment maintenance and repair.

The Parks crew is part of the Community Development Department. In addition to those pictured left, several temporary employees help during the summer. Lee Anderson is the Parks and Facilities Manager who manages the operations of the cemetery, parks and City buildings. John Doan is the Community Development and Parks Director.

Parks Appreciation Day a Success

The third annual Parks Appreciation Day was held at Heritage Park on Saturday, April 24 to spruce up local parks in communities throughout the county. Nine Cleveland Select flowering pear trees were planted with the help of 35 volunteers that included boy scouts (Pack #521), high school students, FFA members, city council members, the Forestry Commission and other community members,

Parks Appreciation Day celebrates Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Parks Week, and our local parks with a day of stewardship and teamwork. Last year nearly 2,000 people gathered in 50 parks throughout Pierce County for the second annual Parks Appreciation Day to clean up the parks for spring.

Parks Appreciation Day is a way for us to involve the public in that effort and to make a difference where it is needed most. The City appreciates the extra effort and assistance by Jacky Esselstrom, Chair of the Forestry Commission who organized this event for Sumner.

Participating municipalities include Metro Parks Tacoma, Fife Parks Department, Fircrest Parks Department,



A crew of volunteers turned out on Parks Appreciation Day to help plant trees in Heritage Park.

Lakewood Parks Department, Pierce County Parks, University Place Parks Department, Milton Parks and Recreation, Puyallup Parks Department, Peninsula Parks & Recreation, the City of Sumner and the Town of Ruston.

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



Steve Allsop



Curt Brown



Mike Connor



Dave Enslow



Mark Evers



Leroy Goff



Matt Richardson



**Ask
Dr. Sumner**

Q. What are those old poles on Thompson Street?

A. Prior to the construction of the current State Highway 410, the state highway went right through Sumner.

The old route came down Thompson Street, turned left on Alder, and right on Main Street. Travelers would then round the corners at Main Street and 160th Ave East, and 64th Street East. Drivers then continued straight ahead up the hill through what is now the entrance to the concrete plant.

The poles still remain in several locations along the route, although the freeway signs are gone and SR410 is the new through route to the communities up the hill. Several of the old light poles downtown are being removed by the Downtown Sidewalk Project (see page 1).

COUNCIL ACTIONS

FEBRUARY / MARCH

- Adopted Resolution No. 1117 approving the disposition of surplus property.
- Approved an Agreement with Puget Sound Energy for the installation of 13 street lights on 24th St.
- Approved a consultant agreement with Entranco, Inc. for Bridge Street Bridge Rehabilitation.
- Extended the existing contract with Ron's Golf Shop for the Sumner Meadows Golf Links.
- Approved an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Puyallup for the replacement of a water main on Valley Avenue East.

APRIL

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2077 replacing Chapter 13.16 – SEWERS - of the Sumner Municipal Code with a new Chapter 13.16.
- Adopted the Findings of Fact for Ordinance No. 2074: Interim Development Regulations.
- Authorized the City to enter into an amended lease with Self, Inc. for the Red Apple Market.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2078 establishing a Flexible Spending Plan.
- Adopted a 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Officers Guild.
- Approved an Interlocal

Agreement with Sumner School District and the City of Bonney Lake for a joint recreation program.

■ Approved an amendment to the Professional Engineering Services Contract with Gray & Osborne for construction administration services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

■ Adopted Ordinance No. 2079: Golf Course range fee adjustment.

■ Adopted Resolution No. 1122 designating The News Tribune as the official newspaper for the City of Sumner.

■ Confirmed appointments: to the Arts, Design, Parks, and Forestry Commissions.

CITY OF SUMNER
1104 Maple St.
Sumner, WA 98390

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