



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Major Projects Under Way Throughout Summer

### Puyallup Street

The City's portion of the extension of Puyallup Street across the railroad is almost complete. The contractor, RCI of Sumner, is planning to finish the street portion of this project by early November. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad will install the actual rail crossing later in the year. The project is funded by a federal grant and contributions from the adjacent property owners.

### Northwest Water and Sewer

Funded by two local improvement districts, the extension of water and

sewer services to the northwest corner of the City has started and should be complete by the end of the year.

### Senior Center Expansion

The 1,300 square foot expansion to the Senior Center to make additional room for meals and activities is out to bid. The project is funded by the City, Pierce County, a federal grant, and donations from the senior citizens.

### Sewer Force Main

A new sewer force main, connecting the east end of Sumner with downtown, will be complete by late-October. The line was constructed from Parker to Wood along Main Street and involved cutting into the street to install the pipe. Thank you to everyone who was inconvenienced by the construction for their patience.



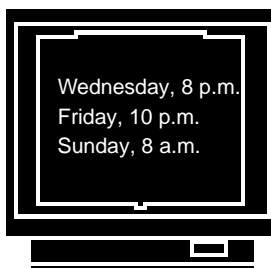
*Construction of trunk line on Main Street.*

For additional information about City projects, check the City's website at [www.ci.sumner.wa.us](http://www.ci.sumner.wa.us). The site provides information about the contacts and schedules for these and other projects.

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## City Council Meeting Broadcast Times Channel 22 & 28



## Lower Garbage Rates Take Effect Sept. 1

The City of Sumner, in coordination with D.M. Disposal, announced lower rates for garbage and recycling services effective September 1. The new working agreement between the City of Sumner and D.M. Disposal provides an average customer savings of 9 percent.

In the past, the City has contracted with D.M. Disposal to handle only the pick-up and disposal of solid waste; the City did the billing. Under the new money-saving agreement, D.M. Disposal's services will expand to also include billing, collection, and customer service. As of September 1, garbage bills are handled by D.M. directly, not the City.

If you have any questions or would like to make changes in your type of service, please call D.M. Disposal at either 253-414-0347 or 253-414-0345.



What do you think of trees? The Sumner Forestry Commission wants to know. Please see the survey inside this newsletter. You could win a gift certificate to Windmill Nursery.





**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE**

**A**s we develop the City's preliminary 2003 annual budget for presentation to the City Council on October 25, it has become very clear that strengthening the City's tax base is a critically high priority.

Sumner's general fund, which supports the police and fire departments, as well as the municipal court, administration and finance, planning and permits, parks, and the senior center, is approximately \$8.3 million this year. The major sources of revenue for this fund are sales tax and property tax. The projected sales tax for 2003 is \$2,090,000, a reduction of more than 10 percent from the year 2000. A downturned economy is certainly a major factor in sales tax receipts. The projected property tax for 2003 is \$2,896,910, and is limited by last year's Initiative 747 to an annual one percent increase (except for one-time "non-recurring" new construction and annexation funds).

Since the cost of doing business is growing at a rate higher than one percent, and since our six labor contracts have cost of living adjustments tied to the consumer price index (CPI) inflation rates, we face a "crunch" in our ability to maintain current levels of service with "flat" revenue growth. Several key components to the cost of operations, especially the cost of employees' medical insurance coverage, exceed the normal inflation rates.

Therefore, there will be much more intense "belt-tightening" this year than in previous years. However, this budget compression will inevitably lead to a reduction in service levels in the future. It presents a challenge to the City to strengthen its retail tax base downtown and around the train station, as well as in new commercial areas – East Main Street, the SR 410/Wahl Road Interchange, the proposed SR 167/24th Street Interchange, and the new 8th Street corridor. Sumner's quality of life will be enhanced when its economic base is more diversified.



*Andrew Neiditz*

*- Andrew Neiditz*

**CITY DIRECTORY**

**MAYOR**  
Barbara Skinner .....891-3318

**CITY COUNCIL** (Voice mail)  
Steve Allsop .....891-3331  
Mike Connor .....891-3332  
Dave Enslow .....891-3338  
Mark Evers .....891-3330  
Leroy Goff .....891-3335  
Stuart Scheuerman ...891-3334  
Ron Scholz .....891-3336

**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

**Arts Commission  
Looking for  
New Members**

Are you someone who enjoys the arts and would like to have an involvement within the Sumner community?

We are currently accepting applications to become members of the Sumner Arts Commission. Your commitment would involve attending monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Other commitments would include assisting with the "Music off Main" summer concert series and other special projects that the Arts Commission sponsors during the year. The terms available are for 1 year and 3 years.

For information and an application, please contact Sally Abrams at City Hall, 253-891-3303 or email at sallya@ci.sumner.wa.us.

**College Interns Get Experience in Summer**

*Four college students worked as interns at Sumner City Hall during the summer. Here's a little about each one:*

**Holly Perkins, Community Development Intern:** Holly is attending Washington State Universities Honors College to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine, while majoring in Animal Sciences. She is a 2002 graduate of Sumner High School and was the co-valedictorian of the graduating class. Her goals are to earn a degree in veterinary medicine and conduct a small animal practice from eventually what will be her own clinic. She also wants to become a pastor.

**Nicci Davis, Community Development Intern:** Nicci is attending Green River Community College to work toward her two-year AA degree. She plans on transferring to another college but hasn't yet chosen one. She is a 2002 graduate Sumner High School and was involved in Future Farmers of America. After college Nicci hopes to train guide dogs for blind people.

**Warren Villanueva, Public Works Intern:** Warren is finishing his mechanical engineering degree at Bellingham Technical College this fall while entering another degree program called Vehicle Research Institute at Western Washington University. Warren is a 1997 graduate of Puyallup High School and also attended Green River Community College. His future goals are to design or professionally race automobiles.

**Jason Liggett, Public Works Intern:** Jason is attending the University of Washington where he is a junior and studying to be an engineer. He is a 2000 graduate of Puyallup High School. His future plans are to attend graduate school or work in a public works position.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Shoreline Master Program

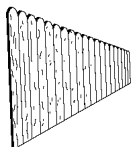
Over the last year the City has been in the process of updating the original 1973 Shoreline Master Program to incorporate changes in science, zoning, and environmental regulations. A public hearing was held on September 6 before the Planning Commission and the document is scheduled to go before the City Council on December 2. Copies of the draft Shoreline Master Program are available at City Hall and on the City's website. For more information please contact Ryan Windish, Senior Planner at (253) 891-3301, ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us.

### 2001 Comprehensive Plan Amendment

This Comprehensive Plan package includes five major components. First, is a proposed rezone of approximately 60 acres of property around the future interchange on SR 167 at 24th Street from light manufacturing to commercial. Second, is a proposed rezone of approximately 40 acres of property around the SR 410 interchange at 166th Avenue from residential to commercial. Third, the rezone of approximately 9,000 square feet of property located at approximately 15310 East Main Street from residential to commercial. Finally, an update to the City's Capital Facilities Plan and Transportation Plan are also included in the package. This Comprehensive Plan amendment package will be before the Planning Commission December 5 and slated for City Council on February 3. If you have questions about these projects please contact Ryan Windish, Senior Planner at 253-891-3301 or ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us.

### Fences

The City Council is presently considering changes to the City's fence regulations that would make three major changes to the fence regulations.



First, it would allow for corner lots in residentially zoned areas that are along major streets (i.e. Valley Avenue) to have fences in the backyard directly adjacent to the street. Second, the changes would allow for certain industrial, commercial, and public facilities such as schools to have 6-foot fences along the street, instead of setting them back. Finally, the ordinance allows limited use of trellises and arbors in fence construction. The City Council will be considering these changes again at their meeting on November 12.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the proposed ordinance, please contact Robert Holler, Assistant Planner at 253-891-3300 or roberth@ci.sumner.wa.us.

### Landscape Regulations

On October 7th, the City adopted changes to the landscape regulations. The changes set forth specify requirements for landscape plans for new commercial, multi-family, and industrial projects. This includes minimum sizes for new plants and a minimum area of the property to be landscaped.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the new ordinance, please contact Robert Holler, Assistant Planner at 253.891.3300 or roberth@ci.sumner.wa.us.

## Transportation Plan Addresses Traffic

The Planning Commission and City Council are in the final steps of reviewing a Transportation Plan which would help the City and new development address traffic growth. The plan inventories the City's existing transportation system and documents where improvements are needed. It also forecasts what traffic will come from development in and around Sumner.

The biggest traffic issues in the City are:

- Regional traffic backs up around the freeways and onto arterials. Drivers who would otherwise drive around Sumner, use the City's primary street system to avoid freeway congestion.
- Truck traffic uses a significant amount of road capacity and creates secondary impacts. Because of the absence of the 24th Street Interchange and because of major construction activity in and around Sumner, there is a high percentage of truck traffic.
- Congestion on arterials within Sumner causes "cut-through" traffic on residential streets.

In order to address these issues, the plan proposes a long list of major transportation improvements. Based on the premise that building roads will not be the only solution, the plan proposes programs to build trails, improve sidewalks, provide traffic calming; along with building and improving streets.

The project list has a total bill of about \$66 million. About half is estimated to come from state and federal grants. Developers would directly pay about \$11 million for improvements. A new impact fee system would raise about \$14 million. The City's general obligation toward the improvements is about \$9 million.

### TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECTS

**Zehnder Street** – Widen and improve the street. Install a signal at Fryar Avenue. \$810,000

**Signal Improvements** – Install or improve signals at Main & Parker, Main & Wood, and Main & Traffic. \$1.3 million

**Pacific Avenue** – Improve the street with full street improvements and restore the bridge. \$1.5 million

**West Valley Highway** – Widen and improve the highway from downtown to the northern City limits. \$1.2 million

**Parker Road and Elm Street** – Improve the length of these streets. \$2.7 million

**Pedestrian-Only Overpass** – Construct a pedestrian-only overpass to the Rivergrove Neighborhood. \$1.2 million

**Additional annually funded projects** – sidewalk rehabilitation and construction, trail construction, downtown improvements, and neighborhood traffic control.

*A public hearing before the Planning Commission will be **November 7** at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Copies of the draft Plan will be available in October either at City Hall or at the City's website. For additional information, please contact Ryan Windish at 891-3301 or ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us.*



# CITY HALL CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

### OCTOBER 14

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

### OCTOBER 21

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

## NOVEMBER

### NOVEMBER 4

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

### NOVEMBER 7

Planning Commission,  
7 p.m., Council Chambers

### NOVEMBER 11

Veteran's Day, City Hall Closed

### NOVEMBER 12

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

### NOVEMBER 14

Design Commission,  
6 p.m., Council Chambers  
Youth Commission  
6 p.m., Conference Rm. #2

### NOVEMBER 18

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

### NOVEMBER 21

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

### NOVEMBER 25

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

### NOVEMBER 28 & 29

Thanksgiving, City Hall closed

## DECEMBER

### DECEMBER 2

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

### DECEMBER 5

Planning Commission,  
7 p.m., Council Chambers

### DECEMBER 9

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

### DECEMBER 12

Design Commission,  
6 p.m., Council Chambers

Youth Commission

6 p.m., Conference Rm. #2

### DECEMBER 16

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

### DECEMBER 19

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

### DECEMBER 23

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

### DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day, City Hall Closed

## JANUARY

### JANUARY 6

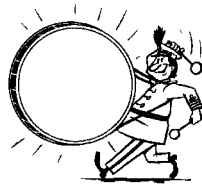
City Council Meeting,  
7 p.m., Council Chambers

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### PARADES A COMIN'

**Homecoming Parade**, November 1,  
4:30 p.m., Heritage Park to SHS Stadium  
Parking Lot.

**Santa Parade**, December 7, 2:30 p.m.,  
SHS Stadium Parking lot to Heritage Park



### CITY EVENTS & HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

**Pumpkin carving**, October 26, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Fire Station

**Community Fest**, November 2, at South Hill Mall, Puyallup

**Holiday Bazaar**, November 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Senior Center

**Holiday Bridge Lighting**, November 29, 5 p.m.

**Fire Department Pancake Breakfast**, December 7, 7-noon, \$3

**Ryan House Tree Lighting**, December 7, approximately 3:15 p.m.

### TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

In association with the U. S. Marine Corps, the Sumner Library will hold its first annual "Toys for Tots" drive from Monday, December 2 to December 24.

Please bring your new unwrapped toys to the library during working hours and bring some happiness to those less fortunate children in the area.



## Residents in Southeast Sumner form Block Watch

Numerous families in the southeast area of Sumner have started a Neighborhood Block Watch. Approximately 50 families recently decided to start the Block Watch to assist their neighbors and watch out for each other.

Initially, citizens in that area of the city contacted Sumner Police Department when several residences and garages were burglarized. The suspect was eventually apprehended and is now serving time in prison. The Block Watch was formed and several topics were discussed at meetings, including: home security and protection, personal protection, sex offenders, crime trends, juvenile curfew, and vehicle theft.

The Sumner Southwest Block Watch covers the area from Main Street, south to Highway 410 and Traffic Avenue, east to Wood Avenue. Contact Citizen Block Watch Coordinator Shari Tompkins at 863-2186 if you are interested. To start a Block Watch in your neighborhood, please contact Officer Joe Boulay at 863-6384.

## Collection Amnesty Month

Sumner Municipal Court will join 100 other courts in Washington state for a "Collection Amnesty" month. During October, the collection agencies that handle delinquent court fines will waive accrued interest and charge a maximum \$75 collection fee on eligible accounts. The effort is expected to increase court revenue and assist those whose unpaid fines are preventing them from having a valid driver's license. For more information contact the Municipal Court, 863-7635.

## Crosswalk, seat belt emphasis

Crosswalk and safety belt emphasis patrols are continuing to be conducted randomly. While most motorists have been receiving verbal warnings for failing to yield for pedestrians in the cross walks, officers will begin issuing infractions to violators in the near future. Motorists who are stopped for seat belt violations are receiving infractions which carries a monetary penalty of \$86.00.

## Chief Reisz Ends Long Public Service Career

**L**ongtime Police Chief Ben Reisz resigned his position at the end of August to accept a position with a private security firm. Chief Reisz ends a long career in public service, including 30 years with the U.S. Army.

During his seven years as Sumner's Police Chief, Reisz led the Police Department through many changes and significant improvements including the design and development of a new police facility as part of last year's remodeling and expansion at City Hall.

The department increased in size, with the addition of two police officers, clerk, dispatcher, animal control officers and a parking enforcement officer. A School Resource Officer was added to work in collaboration with the Sumner School District. Also, Police Officer Reserve and Police Explorer programs were started under Chief Reisz's direction. Equipment was improved for officers, with Sumner being one of the first police agencies in the region to place video cameras in police cars. Community-focused crime prevention programs were implemented.

Chief Reisz will continue living in Puyallup with his wife and son who attends high school. He says he will always have fond memories of his years in Sumner. "Sumner's sense of community is something that is unique and not found in other cities," he said. "Citizens are proud here of what they have."

Lt. Wes Tucker will manage the department until a replacement for Chief Reisz can be named. A new chief is expected to be hired and on board by Nov. 30.



*Chief Ben Reisz, right, is pictured with Lt. Gov. Brad Owen and Officer Jeff Engel with the DARE vehicle near Sumner High School.*

## MUSIC OFF MAIN CONCERT SUMMER SERIES



*Sumner residents brought lawn chairs and blankets and enjoyed folk performer David LaMott's outdoor concert July 12 at Heritage Park in downtown Sumner as part of the Music Off Main Concert Summer Series.*

## Kiwanis Travel & Adventure Film Series

The Daffodil Valley Kiwanis is sponsoring a monthly Travel & Adventure Film series which will be held at the Sumner Performing Arts Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. The following are the dates, along with the presenter and the topics:

**November 6:** Sandy Mortimer  
"Egypt - of Pharaohs and Fables"

**January 8:** Charles Hartman  
"Norway"

**February 5:** Robin Williams, "Biblical Treasures of Turkey"

**March 5:** John Holod presenting  
"Hawaii - Wild & Beautiful"

**April 2:** Fran Reidelberger "Bavaria and the Black Forest"

Tickets are \$28.00 for the series and are available at the "Medicine Shoppe" or any member of Daffodil Valley Kiwanis, or call 845-0336. Flyers of the series are available at City Hall.

## Got Rats?



Rats and their fleas can carry deadly diseases. They can destroy belongings in your home, and have even started fires by gnawing through electrical wires. Rats thrive on things that people throw away. They are attracted to open garbage cans, table scraps, trash piles and pet food. They also like wood piles, old furniture, abandoned cars and fence rows overgrown with weeds. If given an opening, they will come into a house.

If you'd like information about rodent proofing your building, copies of the pamphlet, "Rats: Let's Get Rid of Them," are available at City Hall and through Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Source Protection at (253) 798-6440.

## Sumner's Large Fir Trees Under Attack

**T**he Sumner Forestry Commission wishes to alert residents that many of Sumner's tallest true fir trees are under attack by a devastating insect. It causes severe distortion of branches and eventually will kill many of the trees. The tiny, hard to see culprit is the balsam woolly adelgid (*Adelges piceae*).

Examples of infested trees can be observed at the following locations: two on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Station Lane - just east of the railroad overpass and south of the fire station; three next to the First Christian Church on Wood Avenue across from Mead-McCumber Road; several along Mead-McCumber, mostly near Parker Road; and one on Bonney Avenue, across from Everett Street.

"True fir" trees include alpine, sub-alpine, Fraser, noble and grand firs. Douglas-fir are not "true" firs and, along with hemlock, spruce, pines and cedar trees, are not susceptible to this particular insect pest.

The most visible symptom is the deformation of branches. Up close, small branches have swollen nodes and terminal buds and often have a "bird claw" appearance. From a distance, trees under attack have distorted tops, severe needle loss, dead branches and branch tips that have a drooping appearance (the bird claw look). A toxin that is injected when the insects feed causes these symptoms.

In the spring, each adult can each produce over 200 miniscule eggs. The female covers herself and the eggs with white "cottony tufts". These are visible on small branches, not on the needles, and on tree trunks. Severe infestations can literally turn a portion of a trunk white. Tiny crawlers hatch from the eggs and migrate to the new growth to feed.

The insect can persist on a tree for many years. Small trees can be killed in as little as two to three years. But larger trees can withstand many years of infestation before the stress overcomes their defense mechanisms and the trees die. In the interim, the trees become very unattractive because most branches have become very



*This tall fir with its distorted branches is one of the diseased trees in Sumner.*

deformed and have lost all or most of their needles.

### What Can Be Done?

Unfortunately, there are no practical controls for large trees. Small trees can be treated with insecticides and will survive if treated before serious deformation occurs. In the meantime, the large infested trees throughout the city contribute to the spread of the insect to landscape trees, primarily alpine and subalpine fir trees.

In fact, it is a question of "when", not "if", these popular ornamental species will be attacked wherever they are planted. Consequently, they are poor choices for landscape trees in the Puget Sound area.

What can be done to save the large infested trees? Probably nothing since they are so tall and severely deformed. Their appearance will continue to deteriorate each year. Most of the trees are on private property and it is likely they will slowly be removed as they die. Ideally, the worst infested ones should be removed as soon as possible to discourage the spread of the insect.

*- Written by Dennis Tompkins,  
Certified Arborist  
Sumner Forestry Commission*

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



Steve Allsop



Mike Connor



Dave Enslow



Mark Evers



Leroy Goff



Stuart Scheurman



Ron Scholz

City Council Highlights

Items passed by the City Council, third quarter 2002.

JULY

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2014, East Main Street Design Strategy.
- Authorized awarding the Sumner Springs 1.0 MG Tank Improvements contract to F. D. Thomas, Inc.
- Authorized accepting the donation of a 1968 Pontiac GTO to promote Sumner's Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education Program.
- Adopted Resolution No. 1070: Low Impact Development Street and

Subdivision Development Agreement.

- Authorized the restated agreement with DM Disposal for the collection of solid waste and recyclables.
- Authorized a professional services agreement with Parametrix, Inc. for upgrading the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.

AUGUST

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2019 amending the Zoning Code fee schedule.
- Accepted the East Main Street mid-block crosswalk

project.

- Adopted Resolution No. 1068 – Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.
- Adopted Resolution No. 1069 sponsoring "9-11: A Day of Memory, Hope and Action".
- Adopted Resolution No. 1071 amending the legal description for the southeast annexation.
- Accepted the North End Water System Improvements Phase III project.

SEPTEMBER

- Rejected Ordinance No. 2020 expanding Restricted Parking Zone #1.
- Authorized a Washington State Department of Transportation Developer Agreement for construction work to be performed in the State right-of-way.
- Approved a Facility Relocation/Modification Agreement with Puget Sound Energy.
- Appointed Jeanne Walter to the Planning Commission for a term ending April 2008.

Don't forget to fill out the survey about trees in Sumner.



The survey is inserted inside this newsletter.

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