



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



These trucks broke the ribbon at the ceremony opening the new interchange.

Long-awaited SR 167 interchange finally opens

On September 9 with the sounds of the Sumner High School Jazz Ensemble in the background and with the cooperation of the weather, a crowd gathered to welcome the completion of a long-awaited event -- the opening of the North Sumner Interchange at SR 167 and 24th Street. The project, which began in 1986 and eventually cost \$38 million, was the result of the dedication and support of numerous individuals, property owners and agencies.

The interchange will provide direct access for trucks using the north industrial area. It is estimated that over 2,000 trucks serve the industrial area currently per day. The interchange will also provide direct access for employees of the area to directly reach their employment. The City is working with trucking companies and businesses to help ensure that drivers are aware of the new interchange and can use it rather than driving through the City.



Mayor Skinner speaks at the ceremony.

2004 Comprehensive Plan Update Passes Major Milestone

The City has passed a major milestone in its 10-year update to the Comprehensive Plan. On October 6 the City published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is the road map to the future for the City and addresses future housing, land use, transportation, and growth management. The proposed amendments are necessary to address new population projections, to implement new City policy, and to comply with the state Growth Management Act. It also includes eight site specific rezone requests, amendments to the East Sumner Neighborhood area, a new Economic Development element and the Town Center Plan.

The City is expected to grow by about 45% over the next 20 years from the current population of 9,000 to 12,500. This increase in population can be

accommodated within the existing City limits. The Draft EIS analyzes impacts caused by the proposed amendments and increase in growth. The analysis includes the environment, public and private utilities, and public services such as fire and police.

Both of these documents are available at City Hall in hardcopy, on CD, or downloaded at the City's website at: www.ci.sumner.wa.us/government/commdev/2004_comp_plan_update.htm

The Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the Draft EIS and Comprehensive Plan on November 4, 2004, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Written comments will also be received until December 6.

Comments or questions should be directed to Ryan Windish, Senior Planner at ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us or call him at 253-891-3301.

Community Matching Grants Awarded

Three applications for the Sumner Community Matching Grant program have been awarded funds. The projects are a program to add banners to the light posts along Main Street, the Winter Fest to be held in Downtown

Sumner this November, and an AED unit program through the Sumner High School. Congratulations to those programs! These funds are 50/50 matches to funds raised by the applicants.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Land use planning by Pierce County and our cities has become an interesting topic in our local newspapers lately. But for Sumner, this is nothing is new.

Citizens and leaders of Sumner have carefully planned our city for a century. In the early 1900s, the street system was laid out and requirements for sidewalks and curbs were created. In 1960, the City adopted its first modern Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In the late 70s, the City Council decided to review the long-range direction of land development in the City. We decided to protect the residential areas and Main Street's commercial business area, and to designate the area north of downtown as an employment area suitable for light industrial uses.

The latest version of our Comp Plan was adopted in 1994 and indicated the land use patterns that we thought should exist outside the City limits and what types of utilities we would need to serve those areas. For the past year, we have been reviewing our plan and adding more detail, involving both environmental issues and future needs.

We reviewed the Police and Fire Departments, Parks, and other City services. We asked you to share your thoughts about services that are important to you. We learned that you believe quality and efficient services, trees, parks, sense of community, arts, recreation, and quality design for new construction are essential to our community.

We have learned, through the past 100 years, why planning is so important for a city's ability to meet the needs of its citizens. I hope you will be a part of the current update to our Comp Plan. Together we can all help make decisions that will shape Sumner for the next century.

Finally, the holidays are almost here! Be sure to find information in this newsletter about the various celebrations in Sumner, especially the Old Cannery Bridge lighting ceremony on the Friday after Thanksgiving. This is a Sumner tradition you and your children don't want to miss. Happy holidays!

Barbara Skinner, Mayor



Barbara Skinner

COUNCIL PROFILE

This is one in a series of profiles in Community Connections introducing Sumner City Councilmembers..

Steve Allsop was elected to the City Council in November 2001. His term ends in December 2005.

Steve has lived in Sumner more than 20 years. He and his wife have two children. He works in Sumner as a mortgage broker.

Steve belongs to Sumner Rotary, Sumner Presbyterian Church and volunteers time with YoungLife. He and his family enjoy boating. He also attends car shows and auctions. His favorite thing to do on a Saturday morning is to root for his kids on the soccer field.



Steve Allsop

Steve says he is most interested in Community Development; how the City can keep its small-town atmosphere in the face of so much pressure from growth. He enjoys working on the City's comprehensive plan and trying to help the City achieve the visions the plan lays out. Additionally, he enjoys being an advocate for the citizens on the "little" things that sometimes get overlooked since City resources are naturally more focused on large-scale issues.

Steve says that serving on the City Council is very fulfilling because there is so much going on.

"This is a vibrant community that is growing and changing, and I like being in the middle of that," he says. "I enjoy studying the issues and then representing the community in the best way I know. This city is blessed with a terrific staff who truly desire to serve the people."

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

The City's 2005 budget is a complex "project", its development starting in early summer. As it gets presented to the City Council in late October, it has already been through several layers of refinement, including review with the Council's five committees.



The budget is made up of 40 separate funds, totaling \$51,247,550. The City's total budget includes numerous enterprise funds, capital project funds, special revenue funds, internal service funds, and trust funds. These are a reflection of the complexity of the City's activities, including the various City utilities, the cemetery, the golf course, and the numerous LID's (local improvement districts) that are administered by the City.

The City's General Government budget, or "general fund", of \$11,365,730 is the most visible fund with the most discretionary services. The largest source of revenue for the general fund is the property tax. Pierce County now reports a total assessed valuation for Sumner of \$1,046,456,489, an 11.5 % increase. This includes a three-fold increase in new construction and improvement value of \$85,552,587, reflecting the City's pace of new development. The property tax levy, proposed as a one (1) percent increase over last year's actual levy, is \$3,313,350, which includes the EMS

levy of \$465,630. The next largest revenue source for the general fund is sales tax, estimated at \$3,000,000 for 2005, a 17.6 percent increase over the 2004 estimate. The combined revenues from property tax, sales tax, and utility excise taxes will make up over 70 percent of the entire revenue source for general government.

There is uncertainty this year in the general fund's ability to sustain ongoing service levels since a large share of the revenues are coming from "one-time" or non-recurring sources, such as sales tax on construction activities. Accordingly, the general fund in the proposed 2005 budget includes a higher than average ending fund balance or reserve of \$1.189 million, which is over 10.4 percent.

Sumner citizens are invited to observe and participate as the City Council deliberates on budget priorities for 2005. The budget workshops (the first week of November) are open to the public, and the public hearings for public input are November 1st and 15th.

The year 2005 promises to be another year of continuing challenges and significant growth and change. The City's emphasis going in 2005 is on continuing to carefully manage the City's growth and to sustain our quality efforts in public safety and other basic governmental services.

*Andrew Neiditz
City Administrator*

City Reaches Out to Local Businesses

The City recently surveyed over 200 local businesses, conducted 11 interviews, and held a workshop to better understand the business climate in Sumner and to see what the City could do better. Overall the response from the business community was very positive.

The City found that many businesses are locally owned, appear to be expanding and growing, and are optimistic about the future. Businesses had concerns with traffic, increasing utility costs, and recruitment of skilled labor. They felt that the City could do a better job of managing traffic and parking, expediting permits, and providing greater incentives to established businesses. They also felt the City could be more proactive in marketing and recruiting a diversity of businesses to Sumner.

The City has taken these comments and incorporated them into a new Economic Development Element in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the research results and the draft Element are available at City Hall and on the City's website at : www.ci.sumner.wa.us/government/comdev/.

The City Council will be holding a public hearing on this in December or January as part of the overall update to the Comprehensive Plan. For more information please contact Ryan Windish, Senior Planner at ryanw@ci.sumner.wa.us or call 253-891-3301.

First Tuesday Open House at Ryan House Museum

The First Tuesday Open House will be held November 2 and December 7, 7 pm to 9 pm. This is a work in progress and everyone is welcome to visit the museum to socialize and perhaps do some fancy needlework. Refreshments will be served.

The Ryan House gladly welcomes help sorting pictures, artwork that has been stored in the museum for years, newspaper clippings, vintage clothing and hats, creating indexes for scrapbooks to make them more accessible for research and cleaning odds & ends. They will also be recording oral histories of anyone who lives in Sumner - no matter when they arrived. We all have

a story to tell, and each one of them is a fascinating piece of history.

A World War II Oral History Project has also been started. Volunteers will be recording the memories of veterans; those who worked in wartime factories and industries; people who served on the home front as farmers, doctors, air raid wardens, etc. and those dedicated to keeping our country going by raising families and tending to business.

The Ryan House Museum will be decorated for Christmas on Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27 from noon to 3 pm. Your help would be appreciated at this fun event.



The Ryan House, 1228 Main St.

Volunteers work at the museum every Monday morning from 10 a.m. to noon and all help is welcome. For further information on the Ryan House or the Sumner Historical Society, contact Vicki Connor at 253-863-2670 or email: musem@ci.sumner.wa.us.

Sumner Police Department

in conjunction with

Sumner Family Center

presents a mini-series



“Cop Talk”

Take time to meet your fine Sumner police officers and get your questions answered

Join us on Wednesday nights at Daffodial Valley Elementary (library) 6-8 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 3

Assaults, warrants, driving on a suspended license.

Wed., Nov. 10

“Teen Night” – Juvenile Justice System, drugs/alcohol and Explorer programs

To reserve your spot, please call the Sumner Family Center at 891-6535. Day care and snacks provided.



Crime is Decreasing, Despite What You See on Television

*By Colleen Wilson
Sumner Police Chief*



Have you wondered why the crime rate has not been an issue in this year’s election campaigns? After all, every evening television brings bad news into our living rooms. It appears things are much worse than when “we were young”. Parents of today were in school in the 1970s and seem convinced that crime is much worse today than it was then. The numbers, however, tell us crime is actually lower than it was in 1973.

In 2002, individuals in the United States were less vulnerable to violent crime, and significantly less vulnerable to property crime than in 1973. From 1973 through 2002, the rates of violent crime had some intervals of stability, while the rates of property crime decreased virtually uninterrupted until leveling off some in 2003. Nationally, violent crime has continued to decrease; gun violence in particular has been reduced in recent years.

Surveys indicate that most Americans get information about crime from mass media and believe it to be accurate. Yet research also shows crime is reported out of proportion to actual crime numbers. Television news, particularly, shows violence at a rate much higher than its occurrence. Researchers say this disproportionate reporting may be one reason that most people believe crime is increasing.

Generally, the more individuals are exposed to television, the more likely they are to see the world as a mean and scary place and the more likely they are to distrust others, feel insecure and view crime as a serious problem. Insecurity makes us more likely to be victims—bullies prey on those they believe to be the weakest. Distrust can make us less likely to talk to neighbors and watch out for each other. Even as crime decreases, certainly it continues and we need to pursue prevention messages to our youth and vigilance in our communities.

And it is important to understand the real crime picture, too. There are crimes that are on the increase, such as identify theft. You should take extra care when disposing of your mail, for example, shredding anything with personal information. Never provide information like account numbers to an e-mail request, even if it looks like it came from your bank or credit card company. Always verify such requests. If you receive an offer via e-mail or postal mail that looks too good to be true, it usually is. Sumner Police are always happy to help you verify communication that causes concern.

In Washington, auto theft has also increased substantially in recent years. Most of the auto thefts here in Sumner were of unlocked vehicles and some have even been left running with the keys in them. So be informed, make good choices and take proactive steps, but resist keeping everyone under lock and key. Teaching our kids to be safe from crime is similar to teaching them about water safety. Repeat the messages often and teach them to respect the hazards, but don’t let them become so fearful that they miss out on the fun!

Volunteers needed at Police Department

The Police Department is looking for some good volunteers to go on patrol, do some administrative work, assist in doing some block watches and be part of a great volunteer program. If you are interested, please come down to the Sumner Police Department and fill out our application or contact Amy Parker, volunteer director, at 253-863-6384 x372.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1

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

Budget Workshop, 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

NOVEMBER 3

Budget Workshop, 6 p.m.
Council Chambers

Youth Commission,
6:30 p.m., Police training

NOVEMBER 4

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

Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

NOVEMBER 8

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

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

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day
City Hall Closed

NOVEMBER 15

City Council Meeting,
7 p.m., Council Chambers
Budget public hearing

Budget review, 5 p.m.
Council Chambers

NOVEMBER 17

Budget Review, 6 p.m.
Council Chambers

Youth Commission,
6:30 p.m., Police training

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

NOVEMBER 18

Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Main conference room

NOVEMBER 25 & 26

Thanksgiving, Holiday
City Hall Closed

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1

Youth Commission,
6:30 p.m., Police training room

DECEMBER 2

Planning Commission,
7 p.m., Council Chambers

DECEMBER 6

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

DECEMBER 9

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

DECEMBER 13

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

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

DECEMBER 15

Youth Commission,
6:30 p.m., Police training

DECEMBER 16

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

Arts Commission,
6 p.m., Main conference room

DECEMBER 20

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

November 3

"Cop Talk", Daffodil Elementary Library,
6-8 p.m.

November 10

"Cop Talk", Daffodil Elementary Library,
6-8 p.m.

November 25-26

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26

Old Cannery Bridge Lighting;
5:30 p.m. & Parade down Main St.

4th Annual Holiday Lighting at Windmill
Nursery, 6-8 p.m.

November 27 & 28

Ryan House Holiday Decorating,
noon - 3:00 p.m.

December 4

Fire Department Pancake Breakfast;
7 a.m. - noon



Holiday Parade, 2:30 p.m.,
Main St.

Tree Lighting at Ryan House,
3 p.m. (since 1926)

December 24

City Hall Closed



Holiday Parade

Saturday, Dec. 4
2:30 p.m. Main Street

Tree-Lighting, Ryan House
3 p.m.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Legal Team Wears Many Hats

The City of Sumner's Legal Department may be few in numbers but its responsibilities and workload are anything but small.

The team of three, which includes a part-time paralegal, handles everything from defending the city in court to writing ordinances and complicated legal agreements.

The department is led by City Attorney Patricia Bosmans, who joined the City in 1997 after working for 17 years in the City of Tacoma's legal department. Nancy Forster is the administrative assistant and came to the City with 27 years of experience in the City Manager's office in the City of Tacoma.

Pete Ruppert is the department's paralegal. His experience comes from a career in the Air Force, flying aircraft and handling aircraft acquisitions. Nancy Shattuck, a domestic violence advocate, also works regularly with the legal team.

One of the city attorney's main responsibilities is serving as legal counsel for the City in courts ranging from municipal court all the way to the state supreme court where two Sumner cases have been heard in recent years. The city attorney also represents the City of Sumner in hearings before the hearing examiner and various boards at the state and county levels.

Preparing legal documents and other paperwork is a big part of the city attorney's job. The team writes court charging papers, ordinances, resolutions, agreements, motions,



The City of Sumner legal team includes City Attorney Patricia Bosmans, right, Administrative Assistant Nancy Forster and paralegal Pete Ruppert.

and opinions for council members and City departments.

The city attorney's office also advises staff members and citizens on the governmental process. "A lot of what we do is point people in the right direction," said Nancy.

The greatest reward for the legal team is when their hard work results in a winning a case for the City.

"I think the City is in pretty good hands with our staff. That's rewarding to know," said Patricia.

Widening Project Planned for Stewart Road

The detailed engineering, environmental permitting and right-of way process for the Stewart Road Roadway Improvement Project has begun. Stewart Road, formerly 8th Street East, is located in the cities of Sumner & Pacific. It is currently a two lane road connecting West Valley Highway East and State Route 167 to the newly completed Lake Tapps Parkway and East Valley Highway East.

The roadway will be widened to five lanes including a center two way left turn lane. The improvements will include traffic signals, street lighting, curbs and gutters, planting strips, and a shared use trail located on the north and sidewalks on the south side of Stewart Road. Permanent traffic signals will be provided at 140th Avenue Court East, Butte Avenue SE, Valentine Avenue SE and Thornton Avenue SW along with future signals planned by Washington State Dept of Transportation for the north-bound ramps to SR 167. Future improvements to the corridor will include grade separation of the Union Pacific Railroad and the replacement of the Stuck River Bridge.

This area is developing rapidly as businesses continue to seek location along the corridor. Development to the east of the project continues to increase traffic volumes on Stewart Road.

To accommodate this increased traffic, the Cities of Sumner and Pacific are finalizing design and environmental permitting for the improvements. The cities will be contacting property owners along the corridor in late 2004 to begin the process of acquiring the needed rights of way and easements. Construction of the project is expected to begin as early as spring 2006.

Watch for upcoming newsletters and fliers for additional information or contact Mike Dahlem at 253-891-3315 or email miked@ci.sumner.wa.us.

Willow Street Traffic Calming

A plan to slow traffic on Willow Street between Wood Avenue and Sumner Avenue is currently in the works. Residents along Willow Street and representatives from the Sumner School District met with City staff to discuss the options available. This section of Willow Street is unique as Maple Lawn Elementary and Sumner Junior High make up the majority of one side of the street.

For information, contact Robert Holler at 253-841-3300 or email RobertH@ci.sumner.wa.us.

Town Center Plan Features New Ideas for Sumner

The Town Center Plan public workshop held on September 30th was a great success! About 125 people attended the workshop, which included three sessions on the Town Center Plan. Residents could view several presentation boards and speak with City Staff, view a video presentation on downtown Sumner, and attend a suggestion forum where visitors were asked to provide feedback on the first two sessions.



This is the current site of Sunset Chevrolet at Traffic Avenue and Main looking south.

A highlight of the presentation was a few visual representations of Town Center Development done by LMN Architects for the workshop. These images demonstrated what development possibly could look like on the Red Apple Market site and the Sunset Chevrolet site. For more information on the Town Center Plan go online at www.ci.sumner.wa.us or contact Robert Holler at 253-891-3300, email RobertH@ci.sumner.wa.us.



An architect's drawing shows what the same site could look like with new buildings.

Sumner Promotion Association Welcomes Everyone

Have you ever wondered how the daffodil float ends up looking so great and winning awards? Or, who is responsible for putting up the beautiful baskets of flowers each summer? Maybe you've enjoyed a special shopping night downtown, the Summer Arts Festival or the Classy Car Show. These are all projects that the Sumner Promotion Association brings to the citizens and business owners of Sumner.

The Board of Directors would like to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about Sumner Promotion Association to join us at our regular meetings. These are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall. You do not have to be a member of Sumner Promotion Association to attend; we welcome everyone to learn more about how they can help support their community.

For more information about Sumner Promotion Association, including our special holiday meeting in December, please contact Wendy Sonnemann at Exodus Housing at 253-862-6808 or Sally Abrams at the City of Sumner at 253-891-3303.

**Ask
Dr.
Sumner**



What should I do if I see a rat?

Call 891-3322 to report the location so the City can concentrate its abatement efforts in the right place to keep this problem to a minimum.

**Fall
Clean-up**
November 12



The City of Sumner would like to thank its residents for participating in the Fall Clean-Up Program. Watch for a special coupon in your utility bill that will allow you to put up to three extra containers of yard waste at the curb on the regular yard waste collection day of Nov. 12.

For information, contact DM Disposal at 253-414-0347.



COMINGS AND GOINGS

NEW HIRES:

Jamie Coleman	Finance Specialist II
Daniel Gates	Cemetery Operator I
Joseph Geier	Public Works Temp. Engineering Technician
Kim Scattarella	Public Works Assistant City Engineer

SUMNER CITY COUNCIL



Steve Allsop



Curt Brown



Mike Connor



Dave Enslow



Mark Evers



Leroy Goff



Matt Richardson

ITEMS PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
2004

AUGUST

- Re-Appointed Mike Carnahan and Gene Hammermaster to the Civil Service Commission.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2092 Extending the Multi-Family Interim Development Controls.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2093 a 2004 Supplemental Budget.
- Adopted Resolution No. 1127 Annual Six-Year

Street Plan.

- Adopted Resolution No. 1128 Accepting a Donation of \$30K and a German Shepherd for K-9 Program.
- Upheld the Decision to Deny a Special Events Application.
- Referred the Naming of the Eastside Park to the Parks Board.
- Rejected Bids for the Secondary Clarifier at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Awarded the Bid for Senior Center Painting to Jones Painting, Inc.

- Awarded the Bid for Bridge Street Bridge Painting to IntraState Painting Corp.
- Awarded the Bid for Annual Street Striping to Road Runner Striping.
- Appointed Jennifer Ahrens to the Design Commission.

SEPTEMBER

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2094 Establishing the Structure of the Youth Commission.
- Adopted Resolution No. 1130 Indicating Intent to Annex the Area Known as

the CTI Annexation.

- Adopted Resolution No. 1131 Setting the Date for Public Hearing on LID 70.
- Approved a Supplement to the Entranco Contract for Bridge Street Bridge Painting.
- Approved an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Law Enforcement Aid.
- Approved the Lake Tapps Task Force Funding Request.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2095 Approving a Parking Infraction Penalty for Failure to Respond.



Sumner University Returning

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Feb. 1st and Feb. 8th

Details to follow in December Community Connections.

CITY OF SUMNER
1104 Maple St.
Sumner, WA 98390

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Postal Customer