



City of Prosser



Media Contacts

Sumner: Carmen Palmer
253-299-5503

carmenp@ci.sumner.wa.us

Prosser: Charlie Bush
509-786-8217

cbush@cityofprosser.com

PRESS RELEASE

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Prosser and Sumner Launch a Pairing of Cities

Sumner, WA/Prosser, WA – Last week, the cities of Sumner and Prosser each passed a cooperative agreement to create a “pairing” with each other. The Prosser Chamber of Commerce and the Sumner Downtown Association are also participating in the agreement. Prosser is known as the Birthplace of the Washington Wine Industry with an annual Art and Wine Gala while Sumner, known as the Rhubarb Pie Capital of the World, holds two popular wine walks each year. The two cities found an opportunity to partner together, or to use the wine term, “pair” for increased sharing and tourism.

Prosser has a population of 5,000 and Sumner a population of 9,000. Both cities enjoy a shared agricultural heritage, historic downtowns, local golf courses, and a strong sense of community. They are each part of a broader region with Prosser being located 35 miles from the Tri-Cities and Sumner 35 miles from Seattle. As each city continues to encourage tourism, this pairing joins the small cities’ resources to benefit each, especially during difficult economic times.

“This opportunity is very exciting,” said Sumner Mayor Dave Enslow. “Our State’s tourism office found people want deeper experiences when they travel, especially more options around culinary and local heritage. Both Sumner and Prosser can offer that on either side of a beautiful drive through the mountains. It seemed perfect to develop this pairing and encourage people to visit both cities for a great package experience.”

Prosser Mayor Paul Warden agrees, “People may not be able to travel as far in 2009, but there are plenty of new adventures to find right here in Washington. We hope our residents will enjoy discovering Sumner, while their residents come and have a great time here visiting Prosser’s wine country and our other attractions. Even our Governor was elected on the platform of One Washington, so we’re proud to work with Sumner to build connections within this great state of ours.”

The pairing will start on Saturday, February 14th, when Mayor Warden and other representatives of Prosser will be featured guests at Sumner’s Sweetheart Wine Walk. Participants of the wine

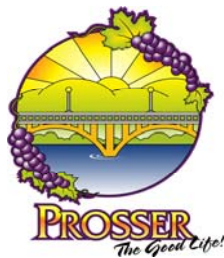
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walk will enjoy a World War II home-front theme to this year's event, tied to the featured wine from Prosser's Airfield Estates Winery. Airfield was just honored with two Gold Medals and one Silver Medal from the *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition, the largest competition of American wines in the world. Tickets to Sumner's Wine Walk are \$15 per person for six tastes and can be purchased through Sumner Downtown Association at www.sumnerdowntown.com. Throughout the year, the pairing will continue to grow as Sumner plans to attend Prosser's Art and Wine Gala in July, and the two cities work on featuring even more Prosser-area wines at Sumner's Mystery Wine Walk in September.

In addition, area businesses are already getting on board to welcome the pairing city and develop partnerships. In addition to the two city governments, organizations already participating include the Prosser Chamber of Commerce, the Sumner Downtown Association, Airfield Winery, and the Sumner Holiday Inn Express.

More details and continued developments of the pairing will be posted to the cities websites at www.ci.sumner.wa.us and www.cityofprosser.com.

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