



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

121 NW Washington Street | PO Box 870 | South Prairie, WA 98385
Phone: (360) 897-8878 § clerk@townofsp.com

BIG THANK YOU TO KAREN LEMING

The Town owes volunteer Karen Leming a huge thanks for her work in keeping up the Veteran's Memorial Park. She recently replaced the American flag and maintains the area on a regular basis. She will be planting flowers and laying down bark in the near future. Karen has taken this on out of the goodness of her heart in honor of our veterans. Thank you Karen!

SOUTH PRAIRIE FOOD PROGRAM IS UP & RUNNING AGAIN

The food assistance program is operating again until April. Please visit the South Prairie WA Talks Facebook page for posts by Jamie Peterson, our local food program volunteer, for times and locations to pick up food boxes. Thank you again Jamie for all you are doing for our community!

CODE ENFORCEMENT PREPARATION

The Town will be contracting with a Code Enforcement official in 2021 to help protect the safety and health of citizens including determining the nature of environmental or health hazards, nuisance violations and unsafe conditions. They can also investigate the abandonment of vehicles and other interests that fall under the category of maintaining the quality of the Town. A code enforcement officer is essentially responsible for evaluating private properties and public grounds against local codes, answering citizen questions about the codes, and issuing citations for code violations. They can also issue citations in accordance with the municipal code and other laws and regulations and assist those in violation in gaining compliance. We are pleased to provide this new level of protection and guidance to the citizens.

We highly recommend that, if you have junk vehicles, abandoned vehicles, accumulations of garbage or other debris on your property; you address it now to avoid the need for code enforcement action to remedy the issues. Our hope is to implement "friendly" enforcement and assistance to residents in becoming compliant with Town codes.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. It will allow us to be more assistive to residents and less violation driven.

NEW WEBSITE – WE'D LOVE YOUR INPUT

We are working on a new Town website. It is live now but nowhere near complete. This will be an ongoing project and we would like your input. If you have suggestions for what you would like to see on the site, please email Terri at clerk@townofsp.com with your ideas. There is also a "Contact" form on the website should you wish to share your feedback in that manner.

Please keep in mind not all suggestions may be appropriate for a municipal website but the goal is to provide a solid tool to citizens, businesses, visitors, etc. We are also looking for your great pictures of the Town, particularly historic pictures and information. South Prairie has a rich history and we would like to share that on the website.

OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM UPGRADE & EXPANSION

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM) expanded the number and reach of the outdoor warning sirens in 2020. PCDEM has 42 sirens in the Puyallup River Valley and the Nisqually River Valley. With the upgrades the sirens have more capabilities to notify people of emergencies. This includes using voice warnings in English and Spanish, flashing lights to reach additional vulnerable populations and verbal instructions based on the emergency. For more information, visit: www.piercecountywa.gov/5888/Outdoor-Warning-System.



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CENTURYLINK BILLING ISSUES

A few months ago, we brought the issue of Century Link incorrectly collecting 6% utility taxes from some of the Town's customers as well as sending South Prairie sales tax to Sumner. The Town Clerk been working with the corporate tax department trying to get this corrected. Finally, we have contact information for you to get to the right folks at Century Link to resolve the matter for all South Prairie customers affected. Our assigned account representative is Ashley Kay Wardle. You can reach her at (208) 207-2240 or Ashley.Warde@centurylink.com. She is the point of contact if your bill reflects collection of a utility tax or any taxes said to be collected for any city or town other than South Prairie. She will be able to correct future billings as well as explain what reimbursements you may be owed.

TOWN HALL GOT A FACELIFT

Town Hall was recently painted and is looking really nice. There are still a few little things to finish up but drive by and take a look. It is shaping up nicely.

IMPORTANT UTILITY BILLING INFORMATION



****Watch out for scammers pretending to be your utility company. If someone calls you and threatens to shut off your service without an immediate payment, hang up and call the number on your bill. This applies to all of your utility providers. ****

NEED ASSISTANCE: There are numerous resources to assist South Prairie residents in paying utility and other bills and expenses. Pierce County has several resources including the Community Action Program at 253-798-6266 and the Human Services division at 253-798-4500. Washington 2-1-1 is your free connection to vital services including access to food, transportation, health care and much more. Just dial 211 to find help. Most churches also offer assistance.

MAKE SURE YOUR PAYMENT IS PROCESSED CORRECTLY: Please only use **black** or **blue ink** on your checks. It is also important to **include your account number** on your check/money order and **do not staple checks**. To make sure your payment is applied to YOUR account correctly, make sure the account number is clearly and correctly displayed on the check/money order. Please make sure the payment amount in full, including **dollars and cents**, is correct on your check. Submitting a payment, even a few cents shy of the total amount due, can **trigger a late fee**. Please use the Town's correct mailing address of **PO Box 870**. Payments sent to Box F need to be updated to PO Box 870. The post office will discontinue forwarding mail sent to the old PO box at some point and your payments may not be received.

WATER/SEWER/SEPTIC SYSTEM EMERGENCIES

The Town's sewer system has seen an increase in non-flushable items. Only toilet paper and waste from the human body should be flushed down the toilet. Even items that say *flushable*, like hygiene/disinfecting wipes, should **not** be flushed. Other unsafe items include:

- Disposable diapers
- Sanitary napkins or tampons
- Paper towels or bandages
- Dental floss
- Condoms
- Hair
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grounds
- Kitty litter

Let's all do our part to keep our system the best it can be. **It is also very important that you not park vehicles on top of water meters or block them in any way.** As always, with water, sewer and septic utility emergencies, contact Mayor Tony Caldwell at (360) 947-4734.

We hope this finds you and your family safe and well!