



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

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

PRAIRIE DAYS



Prairie Days was a blast! Attendance was lower than last year due to so many other events going on the last weekend in August. We will be moving the event back a week for next year. It will take place on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Watch your newsletters for more information and let us know what you would like to see at Prairie Days in the future. If you would like to support the future events with a donation or by volunteering or both, please reach out to Meag at clerk2@townofsp.com.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the event, our wonderful volunteers, our entertainers and the Mayor and Councilmembers for all you did to make this a fun day for all!

IMPORTANT UTILITY BILLING INFORMATION



****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. ****

BE SURE YOUR PAYMENT IS PROCESSED CORRECTLY: Payment is always due by the 19th of the month. If not paid by the 19th, a \$25 late fee will be assessed. If not paid by the 27th, the water will be shut off and you will incur a \$50 shut off fee and a \$50 turn on fee which must be paid with the full balance before water service will be restored.

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.

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. Plateau Ministries is also an option at 360-825-8961. 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.

ONLINE POLICE REPORTING

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department is happy to offer citizens the option to report some incidents online that occur within our Town and do not require you to wait for a deputy to physically respond to the location. Generally, a single online report incident will not rise to the level for follow-up investigation. However, reporting these incidents may help identify patterns of criminal activity or behavior that can assist detectives in solving crime in our neighborhoods. To report non-emergency incidents use phone number 253-287-4455. If you're not sure if it is an emergency, err on the side of caution and call 9-1-1. They will transfer you to the right person whether it's determined to be emergency or non-emergency.

Online reporting may **not** be used to report emergencies or in-progress crime. If you have an emergency or are reporting a crime that is in progress, please call 9-1-1 immediately. With all of the recent activities in Town by vandals and thieves, if you see anything in progress call 9-1-1. If you can get video of it occurring, even better.

Additionally, online reporting allows citizens to provide details, especially regarding property loss, that can be checked by agencies throughout the state and nation to help with the recovery of stolen or lost property.

Please be sure to read and follow the **instructions** before you submit the online form. The application will walk you through the reporting steps for eligible incidents that occurred in unincorporated Pierce County.

3rd Annual Prairie Days – Saturday, August 19, 2023 - 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



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ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES & COMPLAINTS

Animal bites, animals running loose, cruelty reports, injured animals and vicious animal complaints. Pierce County Animal Control (PCAC) provides services to South Prairie residents for most all animal related issues. Should you have any animal issues, please contact them directly at 253-798-PETS or online at piercecountywa.gov/3966/Animal-Control-Home. There you can report animal related concerns.

Barking Dogs. The reporting party must provide the address for the suspected dog owner and the details of the problem when reporting an issue. Upon receiving the first complaint for animal noise, PCAC will issue a warning letter to the pet/property owner informing them of the complaint, what municipal code they are violating and what the fines will be assessed should the noise continue. Upon receiving a second complaint, an Animal Control Officer will respond in person to make contact with the owner. Noise affidavits/barking logs will be sent to the complainant so that they can log dates and times when the noise is happening. Once affidavits are returned to PCAC, an Animal Control Officer will review the logs and issue infractions. They do not take anonymous complaints for animal noise.

Roaming Animals. An Animal Control Officer responds on the first complaint. An area check will be completed to try locate the animal so a good description of the animal must be provided at the time of the call. If the owner is known, an Animal Control Officer will make contact with the pet owner, a warning will be issued and the animal may be impounded. If owner is unknown, the pet will be impounded. Upon the second complaint, if the officer does not see the animal loose, the caller will be requested to get a photo of the loose animal and complete a handwritten statement in order for an Animal Control Officer to take action. If the Animal Control Officer sees the dog loose, he/she can impound the animal and/or issue infractions to the owner on the spot. It is up to the officer to decide what action to take.

VANDALISM IN TOWN

We have had reports and experienced quite a bit of vandalism in Town. Although we believe we know who the culprits are, we need to catch them in the act in order for the sheriff to get involved. We have strategically placed cameras in the areas where the vandalism has been occurring and, should it continue, we will be able to share the video with law enforcement. So far they have vandalized the food pantry, the little library, the 3rd Street Park restroom, South Prairie creek area a number of times and have stolen yard signs that were placed notifying folks of the Prairie Days event this year. Should you see this happening, please dial 911 and, if possible, get pictures or video of them in the act. We have received pictures and video of the boys fleeing from the vandalized areas but none of them in the act. Let's work together to protect our community and its assets and turn these guys over to the authorities. It is such a shame that we have to deal with this in our Town and that some of our youth has little to no respect for the community and its residents.

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 (adult & baby)
- Sanitary napkins or tampons
- Paper towels or bandages
- Dental floss
- Condoms
- Hair
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grounds
- Kitty litter

Please do your 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.** For water, sewer and septic emergencies, contact Tony Caldwell at (360) 947-4734.

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

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