

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## Message from the Utility Department

Late last month it was brought to our attention that the online bill pay system was not accepting card payments. We were unaware that the system was not working properly. After some research we found and corrected the problem and can say that the system is up and running as it should.

If you experienced a “failed” transaction, please email your name and account number to [deputyclerk@townofsp.com](mailto:deputyclerk@townofsp.com)

## 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.



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## Message from Murrey's Disposal

Murrey’s will be conducting a large residential reroute, the first of its kind since 2012. A reroute is needed to properly manage the substantial population growth experienced in Pierce County and is being designed to improve customer service, safety, and efficiencies.

**Reroute launch Date:** The first day of new routes will be **March 18<sup>th</sup>**

To ensure that all affected residents are well-informed about the reroute, we will be employing various communication channels informing them of their new pickup day. These include:

**Mailers  
Text Messages  
Emails**

**Phone Blast  
Murrey's App  
Social Media**

We understand that any changes to your regular routine may be inconvenient, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this reroute process. Our goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible for the Cities, County, and all residents.

We thank you for your understanding as we work to enhance our services to accommodate the growth in Pierce County.

For any questions you may have, please feel free to contact

**Steven Hopkins at  
[Steven.Hopkins@WasteConnections.com](mailto:Steven.Hopkins@WasteConnections.com)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR 12- COUNCIL MEETING 7PM**

**MAR 30- EPFR 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AT 3RD ST PARK 10AM**

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## Utility Billing Information

Now you can pay your bills online! As a way to offer you more choices in how you pay your bills, we have partnered with Xpress Bill Pay.

It's simple to use, all you need is an internet connection and an email address. Once you sign up for your account and start using this service, every month we'll send you a reminder email to let you know when your bill is online. Then, you just log into your account at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com) or use our mobile app to view your bill.

When you're ready to pay your bill, select a payment type. You can pay with credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer. Enter the information and you're done! Or you can set up your bill on Auto Pay and have it automatically paid for you each month! We offered this service at the request of our customers — **you asked and we delivered!**

To sign up, go to [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com) and follow the instructions there.

**\*\*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 19<sup>th</sup> of the month. If not paid by 8 a.m. on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, a \$25 late fee will be assessed and a late bill generated. If not paid by the 27<sup>th</sup>, the water will be shut off on the 28th, 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. Keep in mind our mail service in Town is very slow and unpredictable. The best way to ensure your payment is received on time is to drop it in the drop box at Town Hall no later than the 19<sup>th</sup>.

NEED ASSISTANCE: 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.

## South Prairie Flag Design Contest

Do you have an undeniable artistic ability? This contest might be just for you! Most Towns and Cities have a flag that symbolizes the pride they have for their community.

Five Principals for flag design, suggested by the North American Vexillological Association:

1. **Keep it simple.** The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.
2. **Use meaningful symbolism.** The flags images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.
3. **Use 2-3 basic colors.** Limit the number of colors on the flag to three which contrast well and come from the standard color set.
4. **No lettering or seals.** Never use writing of any kind or organizations seal. *Note: Use of the Towns logo and name is allowed in this contest*
5. **Be distinctive or be related.** Avoid duplicating other flags, but use similarities to show connections.

If you are interested in trying your hand at designing a flag for our Town, you can pick up an entry form at Town Hall.

Contest Deadline is **April 15th, 2024**

The winner will be notified and announced in the May Bulletin. Entries can be dropped off at town hall or send an email to Meagan at [clerk2@townofsp.com](mailto:clerk2@townofsp.com) with your 3"x5" design, your name, and preferred contact information.

All entries will be reviewed by town council and a Winner will be chosen. The winner will receive South Prairie Swag collection!

## Code Enforcement

There have been numerous complaints lately that are in direct violation of the South Prairie municipal code. Some of those violations should be reported to the sheriff or animal control in order to be addressed properly. They are detailed below

**Animal Control Violations** - There have been reports of roaming (off leash) and aggressive animals. **We should not have to feel unsafe in our own neighborhoods due to irresponsible pet owners.** Animal bites, animals running loose, cruelty reports, injured animals and vicious animal complaints should be made to Pierce County Animal Control (PCAC). Please contact them directly at 253-798-PETS. SPMC 6.05.010 - Adoption of Pierce County Code relating to animal control. PCC 6.03.010 (A) It is unlawful for the owner or person having control or custody of any animal to cause or permit such animal to leave the premises where the owner resides, unless the animal is under physical restraint adequate to the size and nature of the animal. Exceptions to this restriction are pets engaged in formal training, hunt or competition, or animals lawfully within a designated off-leash park, or service dogs engaged in activity for which they are trained or in service. **Any such animal may be seized and impounded. A violation of this subsection is a Class 3 Civil Infraction.**

**Public Disturbance Noises** - The afterhours (11:00pm - 7:00am) use of off highway vehicles (OHV's) violates SPMC noise code. OHV's include all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), four wheelers, three wheelers, dirt bikes, motorcycles, trail bikes, mini bikes and snow mobiles. SPMC 9.25.010 states "It is unlawful for any person knowingly to cause or make, or for any person in possession of property to knowingly allow or permit to originate from the property, a public disturbance noise which unreasonably disturbs another. This also applies to Town streets.

**We all love our Town so let's be good neighbors and allow everyone to safely enjoy our community and neighborhoods!**

## Lahar Siren and Evacuation Signs

**Did you know that one of the natural hazards facing residents of South Prairie is volcanic activity from Mount Rainier?**

Experts consider it one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world, largely because of the threat of a lahar. A lahar is a large volcanic mudslide caused by snow and ice melting from mountain glaciers. Mt Rainier has 25 large glaciers on its peak with a combined area of approximately 35 square miles. A lahar event with such close proximity of residents to the mountain, the damage could be catastrophic.

The Puyallup River Valley is at greatest risk. Tens of thousands of people live in areas that may have as little as 40 minutes to move to safety once a large lahar is detected. This robust system was originally created to notify people promptly and widely, they were in harm's way and how to prepare and take protective actions.

In response to this hazard, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM) has worked closely with other experts to create an integrated lahar warning system. The Mt. Rainier Lahar Warning System consists of two separate components, operating in tandem: Acoustic Flow Monitors (AFM) and the All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens. There is an AHAB siren located at the South Prairie Fire Station. Along with the siren residents will also receive warning via PCALERT and other alerting mechanisms. You can sign up for PCAlerts by texting "PCALERT" to 888-777 from your mobile device.

In the event of a lahar emergency the system will use a "wail" siren and flashing lights to get people's attention. After the siren a verbal warning will sound in English and Spanish. There are routes mapped for resident evacuation and are indicated by signs on the main roads in South Prairie.

For more information please visit the Outdoor Warning System page on [PierceCountyWA.gov](http://PierceCountyWA.gov)



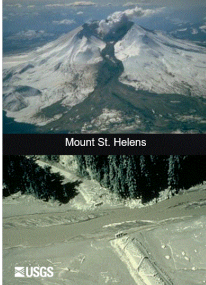
**HAZARDS OF MOUNT RAINIER**



**WHO'S AT RISK?**  
2.5 million people live in the six major river bed drainages in four counties

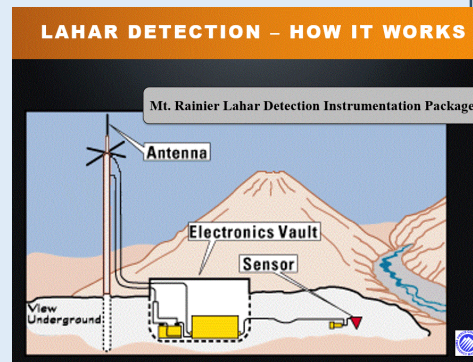
**WHAT'S AT RISK?**  
\$40 billion in assets in the six river bed drainages  
\$13 billion in estimated losses

**HAZARDS OF MOUNT RAINIER**



**WHAT IS A LAHAR**

- Fast-moving slurry of mud, boulders and water
- Rushes down valleys at speeds of 40 mph or more
- Flows to distant areas
- Formed by melted snow and ice as may occur during an eruption, glacial floods, and landslides
- Destroys or buries everything in its path



## RCAC Income Study

**KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAIL FOR THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY**

RCAC is continuing to conduct an income survey regarding your Household Gross Annual Income for 2021.

This information is needed so the Town can apply for funding programs to allow for necessary repairs and replacements to the wastewater system. Being able to seek necessary funding to make much needed upgrades to the system without heavily impacting user rates.

There were approximately 25 homes that have not yet responded. You will be receiving a direct mailing with the information needed to respond. We are so close to certifying the survey and your participation is vital.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is an independent third-party organization conducting the survey. The information you provide will only be used by RCAC and will be kept confidential. No State, County, City, District, or community members will have access to any individual's response.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sabrina Straus at (971) 978-9257 or [sstraus@rcac.org](mailto:sstraus@rcac.org). Thank you for supporting our community.