



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

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

~ RECENT COMPLAINTS - SOUTH PRAIRIE MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATIONS ~

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 including one resident who was chased and cornered on his front porch by dogs that were unattended on 3rd Street. While you may be confident that your pet will follow your commands, it is in the best interest of the public that animals remain leashed and in your control at all times. **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 or online at piercecountywa.gov/3966/Animal-Control-Home. The online portal gives you a better idea of how and what to report so they can respond appropriately. It also explains what happens after a report is made. PAC provides services to South Prairie residents for most all animal related issues.

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.**

Operation of Unlicensed Vehicles - There have been concerns expressed about the recent instances of unlicensed vehicles on town roadways. All vehicles using Town, State or County roads must be licensed as must the drivers of said vehicles and drivers must also wear a helmet. These codes are in place to keep us all safe and to allow our residents to enjoy safe streets and the generally peaceful enjoyment of their neighborhoods. There have been numerous complaints regarding kids (underage drivers) and unlicensed ATV vehicles zooming up and down Town streets. This is in direct violation of South Prairie Municipal Code (SPMC) as well and Pierce County Code (PCC). Again, it is important that the sheriff's department is contacted (not the Mayor or Town Hall) immediately when you witness this going on. The sheriff has been alerted to what is been going on in Town lately and will respond as soon as possible. If you can, take pictures to share with them when they respond. These activities directly violate SPMC 10.05.040, which adopted the Washington Model Traffic Code Chapter 308-330 (WAC) along with RCW 46.16A.200 (6d), among others. There have been complaints that these activities are also taking place late at night. The Town's noise code addresses this.

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!

2024 PRAIRIE DAYS – SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 - 2 P.M. TO 9 P.M.



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~ COUGAR SIGHTINGS IN SOUTH PRAIRIE ~

There have been recent cougar sightings in early morning at 3rd Street Park. These sightings have been reported as no conflict sightings. It is suggested that you report non-emergency predatory wildlife incidents or sightings to Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Predatory wildlife is defined as cougars, wolves, and grizzly bears. Reports can be made by calling 877-933-9847 or you can submit an online report at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/enforcement/report> You can also visit Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's website to view previously submitted reports, all reports are available within 10 days of the reported observation.



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 8 a.m. on the morning of the 20th, a \$25 late fee will be assessed and a late bill generated. If not paid by the 27th, 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 19th.

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. Most churches also offer assistance.

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 are working on some teens and family events for Oct-Dec, 2023. Watch your mail and upcoming newsletters for details.

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