



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

121 NW Washington Street | PO Box 870 | South Prairie, WA 98385

Phone: (360) 897-8878 § clerk@townofsp.com

NEW PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE AT VETERAN'S PARK



Your Town Council recently authorized the purchase and installation of a new play structure at Veteran's Park. It was budgeted for 2021 to invest in much needed parks improvements. The contractor and his crew also generously donated their time and materials to install the structure. There are just a few final touches on the structure and a fence that will be installed around the playground area. We anticipate it will be ready for fun by early May so stay tuned☺

Amazing addition to the community!

A big thanks to the community members who joined in the spreading of the wood chips for the playground. They spread 40 yards and we will be adding more after the fence is installed so our kids have a safe place to land.

We are still in search of a scout troop or other community members who may want to build and/or donate benches and/or picnic tables to be installed near the new structure. We would love for folks to be able to sit and enjoy watching the children play. If you know of anyone, please have them contact Terri at Town Hall.



STATE FOR BUSINESS LICENSING PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to announce that the Town of South Prairie has partnered with the Department of Revenue's Business Licensing Service (BLS). We anticipate BLS will begin processing the Town of South Prairie's business licenses and renewals effective July 1, 2021. More details about the process are on the Town website at www.townofsp.com/business-licensing. Additional information will be provided to businesses as the go-live date approaches.



ELECTED OFFICIALS 2021 CANDIDATE FILING

If you are interested in running for office to represent your South Prairie community, the 2021 candidate filing week is May 17-21. There are several Council positions as well as the Mayor position up for election this year. You must be 18 years old and have been a resident of South Prairie for a minimum of a year to run for office. Those elected will take office January 1, 2022. For more information visit: piersecountyelections.org. This information is also posted on the home page of the Town website.

The Association of Washington Cities publishes a great resource entitled Knowing the Territory. This is a good source of information to learn about the basic legal guidelines for elected officials including basic powers; duties, liabilities and immunities of public officials; ethical guidelines; the Open Public Meetings Act, public records law and more. You can find the document on their website at <http://mrsc.org/getmedia/1e641718-94a0-408b-b9d9-42b2e1d8180d/Knowing-The-Territory.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf>



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CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ONBOARD

The Town has contracted with a Code Enforcement official to help protect the safety and health of citizens including determining the nature of environmental or health hazards, nuisance violations and unsafe conditions. He 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. He 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.

SOUTH PRAIRIE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN



We are happy to announce that a Free Food Pantry has been installed on the corner of Third and Emery. It is available to all for getting and giving food! It is next to the Little Library so you can get or give some reading material while you are there.

Always nice to see our community stepping up to help one another!

Remember not to leave perishables or anything outside the pantry itself. We don't want animals getting into things or for things to go bad and make folks sick. Please also remember children have access so no alcohol or other dangerous items.

NEW WEBSITE – WE'D LOVE YOUR INPUT

The Town's website is growing and we would like your input. Recently, we added a Community Development page and photos of the new playground work on the What's Happening page.

You can also find Council meeting agendas and minutes; the 2021

Budget; the South Prairie Municipal Code; Town History; links to departments and services; and a contact the Town page.

If you have ideas for what you would like to see on the site, please email Terri at clerk@townofsp.com. You can also submit your suggestions on the “Contact” form on the website.

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 as well as photos of this beautiful community.



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NEED TO HAVE A PACKAGED DELIVERED TO YOUR PO BOX?

We've been told by some companies/senders that they do not deliver packages to PO boxes. In speaking with Post Master for South Prairie, we discovered you can have them delivered to your PO box if you address it to 105 Highway 162 E #(your PO Box #), South Prairie, WA 98385, instead of PO Box #, South Prairie, WA 98385.

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.

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

The Town's system has seen an increase in non-flushable items. Only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed. 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!