



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

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

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.

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.

OPEN TOWN COUNCIL POSITIONS



The Town Council has 2 Town Council vacancies to fill. This is a great opportunity to serve your community and learn the ropes of small government. You must be at 18 years old, a registered voter and a resident of the Town for at least one year. If you are interested or no someone in the community who is, please contact Town Hall or submit your letter of interest to clerk@townofsp.com or US mail to Town of South Prairie at PO Box 870, South Prairie, WA 98385.



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SOUTH PRAIRIE RESIDENTS **DO NOT** PAY FOR PO BOXES

Using a PO Box at the South Prairie Post Office? Did you know that post office patrons who live within the South Prairie town limits **DO NOT** have pay a for PO Box? The USPS does not provide mailbox/door to door service in Town, residents are afforded a **FREE** post office box. If you are currently a South Prairie resident and are paying for your PO Box, please contact the post master and she will help you correct that. She can be reached at (360) 897-8828.



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.

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 Tony Caldwell at (360) 947-4734.

WHEN IS IT OK TO HAVE AN OUTDOOR FIRE?

Outdoor burning is allowed only when there is not a burn ban in place. A ban can be imposed by either Pierce County Fire Marshall or Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA). Please visit the East Pierce Fire and Rescue website (eastpiercefirerescue.org) and the PSCAA website (pscscleanair.gov/168/Air-Quality-Burn-Ban-Status) prior to burning. The EPFR website indicates at the top right corner of the page if there is a burn ban in effect. The PSCAA indicates burn bans in place by County.

Outdoor burning general requirements, per EFPR, as are follows:

- Fires shall have a competent person (attendant), at least 18 years of age, present on the immediate fire site at all times.
- The attendant must verify that there are no burn bans in effect before ignition.
- Fires must be maintained to assure maximum burning efficiency.
- A garden hose connected to a water supply, or a shovel and five (5) gallons of water must be at the burn site at all times.
- Only one fire may be burned at a time on a parcel of land.
- Fires will not be lit if the wind is blowing more than 5 miles per hour. Lit fires will be extinguished if winds begin to blow more than 5 miles per hour.
- No fires shall be allowed on any public or private Right-of-Way or in any lake bottom.
- Fires shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet of adjoining property lines, fences, or docks and the surrounding area shall be clear with no overhanging branches.

