



TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE

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

CENTURY LINK CUSTOMERS – YOU MAY BE OWED SOME MONEY.

Century Link has been incorrectly collecting 6% utility taxes from some of the Town's customers as well as sending South Prairie sales tax to Sumner. The Town Clerk been working with the corporate tax department over the last couple of months trying to get this corrected. It has been an uphill battle because it is a situation out of the norm which makes it difficult. Finally, on October 28 we were notified that they now have the right folks at Century Link working with us to find a resolve for all South Prairie customers affected. Unfortunately, we do not have the answers quite yet but are told as soon as they know exactly how to address this, we will be provided contact information for residents to call to fix your bills. You should also expect to be reimbursed for charges up to the maximum allowed. We don't know what that maximum is yet either and are told that information will be provided with the contact information so everyone knows what to expect. Stay tuned!

IMPORTANT UTILITY BILL INFO.



The Governor extended the moratorium on utility shut offs and late fees. However, customers are still responsible for their unpaid balances. Once the moratorium is lifted, late fees and shut offs may occur if there is a balance remaining of any amount on your account. *****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**. Many times we receive checks from online bill pay or money orders that do not include a valid account number. In order 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.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR & PET PARENT.

We are receiving complaints about dogs running loose and not on a leash as required by law. This is dangerous for both your neighbors as well as your dog. Not only can things happen that could injure your pet or your neighbors but the animal could also be seized by animal control. If that happens, you will incur a fee to retrieve your pet. Should they injure someone, there is also a chance the animal would be required to be surrendered and, worse yet, euthanized. You could also be subject to court fines and restitution for injuries to property, other pets and people. Please be responsible with the care and control of your pets. For their sake and that of your neighbors.

SIREN TESTING FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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. These sirens are meant to get the attention of people who are outside so they know to get more information on how to respond to a true emergency. These first Monday of the month tests are only tests of the system and do not constitute an emergency. 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. The siren testing occurs each month on the first Monday at noon.



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GARBAGE SERVICE REQUIRED WITHIN TOWN LIMITS.

Solid waste (garbage) collection is mandatory in South Prairie, in accordance with Title 8 of the South Prairie Municipal Code. It is the duty of the property owner of any commercial establishment or residence to ensure that all solid waste is deposited into an approved container and is collected at least weekly. This helps prevent attracting rodents and other animals. It is also unlawful for any person to bury, dump, collect, or in any other manner dispose of solid waste on any property within the town. Failure to comply is a civil infraction and monetary penalties can be imposed each and every week of non-compliance. The Health Department may also impose penalties. Burning of garbage is also unlawful and is a civil infraction which can result in monetary penalties, enforcement and sanctions by the Town and other agencies including the fire department and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. If you need to schedule garbage service, contact Waste Connections at (253) 414-0345.

WILD ANIMALS SPOTTED IN TOWN..

Be advised there have been a number of wild animal sightings around town. Make sure your garbage is contained to avoid attracting them onto your property. Do not approach the animal(s) should you see them. Keep an eye on pets. Some citizens are posting sightings on the South Prairie WA Talks Facebook page.

SOUTH PRAIRIE FOOD PROGRAM..

The Town has been the benefactor of a wonderful food program. Monday, Wednesday and Friday (generally speaking), citizen volunteers deliver boxes of food to the community center behind the fire station for all those who may need it. You are welcome to pick up extra for family, friends and neighbors who may need assistance but may have difficulty picking it up themselves. For details and more information about when, where and what food is available to pick up, keep an eye on the South Prairie WA Talks Facebook page posts by Jamie Peterson. She is doing an amazing job administering the program and keeping all apprised on Facebook. Thank you Jamie!!!

WATER/SEWER/SEPTIC SYSTEMS & 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. **As always, with water, sewer and septic utility emergencies, contact Mayor Tony Caldwell at (360) 947-4734.**

TOWN EMAIL CONTACTS..

Mayor Tony Caldwell – tcaldwell@townofsp.com
Councilmember Jeff Robbins – jrobbins@townofsp.com
Councilmember Mark Kauzlarich – mkauzlarich@townofsp.com
Councilmember Carolyn Norris – cnorris@townofsp.com
Councilmember Barb Wigton – bwigton@townofsp.com
Councilmember Jan Twardoski – jtwardoski@townofsp.com
Town Clerk/Treasurer Terri Berry – clerk@townofsp.com

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