

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WE WANT CITIZENS TO BE AWARE THAT OUR TOWN MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, MIKE BROWN, WILL BE INSTALLING NEW EMERGENCY INFORMATION STICKERS ON ALL SEPTIC ALARM BOXES. YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY THE TOWN AND THESE STICKERS WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THE EVENT THE SEPTIC ALARM SOUNDS.



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.



SOUTH PRAIRIE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024 —VOL. 2

A Message From Our Mayor

Happy February!

Spring is coming – which still means lots of inclement weather. We are working on cleaning the storm/catch basins that are in town but that is usually best done during dry weather. If you see a location that has a lot of standing water on the roadway please let us know so we can make sure that area gets cleaned out soon.

As we move into spring yard cleanup, please be aware of any overgrown vegetation in your yard that is intruding on sidewalks or roads. Keeping those walkways clear for pedestrians and drivers is helpful.

We will be getting new wood chips for the playground areas in the next couple of months. It is a pretty big job getting those spread – if there is anyone who would like to help volunteer their time helping with that task please let us know. Volunteer time helps keep our maintenance costs down freeing up funds for other needed projects.

We are open to suggestions from residents on events and changes that you think will benefit and invigorate our community. Please take the opportunity to attend a council meeting. We offer online meeting attendance for those how don't want to come in person. Our next council meeting is Monday February 12th at 7 pm. We hope to see some of you there!

Mayor Carolyn Norris

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 12- COUNCIL MEETING 7PM

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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 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 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 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.

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 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!

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

HAZARDS OF MOUNT RAINIER



WHO'S AT RISK?

2.5 million people live in the six major river bed drainages in four counties

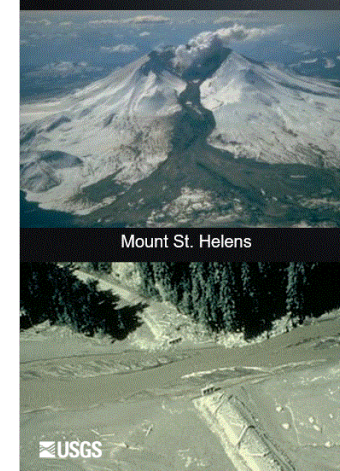
WHAT'S AT RISK?

\$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



LAHAR DETECTION - HOW IT WORKS

