



CITY OF
SEQUIM

2019 Annual Report



The People's Project! Your Money, Your Power, Your Project.

The City of Sequim introduced a new participatory budgeting process, The People's Project! Your Money, Your Power, Your Project. The community and visitors were given paper money and invited to vote for how they would spend up to \$150,000 in the City's 2020 budget. Over 950 people participated in the program including students from Sequim High School. The top selection was the installation of nine water bottle refilling stations in City parks. The water stations help to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles and support residents' active lifestyle. The second choice was to install Bigbelly Automated Trash and Recycling Stations. The City will install the water filling stations and test two Bigbelly stations in 2020. The People's Project! was derived from an international program for Participatory Budgeting to encourage the community to get more involved with the City budgeting process and was adapted to fit the small town, friendly atmosphere of Sequim.



Sequim Receives an Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award



The City of Sequim received an Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award from the Alliance for Innovation for its Neighborhood Revitalization program. The award was presented to City staff at the Transforming Local Government Conference in Reno, Nevada in April.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of the City's partnership with

Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County and other community organization in efforts to improve City neighborhoods through neighborhood visioning meetings, Rally in the Alley events, and the 2018 first-of-its-kind Sequim Service Fest.

Ten cities and counties throughout the country received awards. Sequim was the smallest organization recognized. Recipients were chosen by a multi-member Selection Committee consisting of City and County Managers, Innovation Officers, and Academic representatives from across the U.S. The Selection Committee looked for local governments that had shown their dedication to stretching and improving the boundaries of day-to-day government operations and practices, implementing creative business processes, and improving the civic health of the community.

The Alliance for Innovation is an international association partnered with Arizona State University to identify major trends in local government, research innovative practices, and serve as a repository of information on the process of innovation.

First Responders Partnered for Drill at Sequim Middle School

The City of Sequim, Clallam County Fire District 3, and the Sequim School District partnered to hold a Criminal Mass Casualty Incident (CMCI) drill at the Sequim Middle School in September.

The drill simulated an active shooter at the school and gave police, fire, and the school district an opportunity to test response protocol for this type of incident.



Photo courtesy of Conor Dowley and the Sequim Gazette

City Crews Work Overtime in Major Snowstorm

Western Washington was hit with a severe snowstorm in February 2019 with areas in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley seeing over three feet of snow. The City of Sequim Public Works Crew worked around the clock 24 hours a day in 12 hour shifts to keep City streets clear. During a snowstorm the crew works first on major arterial streets before moving on to neighborhood streets. There are 54 miles of city-owned roads and alleyways in Sequim, in addition to parking lots and sidewalks. Residents and businesses helped to keep sidewalks clear.



Daytime Warming Center Opened

The City of Sequim partnered with Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP) to open a daytime warming center due to an extended cold snap and severe snowstorm in February. The center was located at the Sequim Transit Center and complimented other centers that were open at night for anyone who needed to get out of the cold.



State Transportation Budget Includes Highway 101 Funding

The City of Sequim was notified in May that the final State Transportation Budget included \$1.9 million to support the completion of the US Highway 101 East Sequim Corridor Improvement project, including completion of the Simdars Road Interchange, connecting Happy Valley and Palo Alto Roads to the interchange, as well as landscaping the Sequim bypass. The funding will allow design and permitting of the project to begin and keeps the timeframe on target for coordinating construction with the State's planned Johnson Creek culvert replacement project.



Frommer's Announces Sequim and the Olympic National Park as One of the Best Places to Go in 2019

International travel guide publisher Frommer's selected the Olympic National Park (ONP) and Sequim as one of the 19 best places in the world to go in 2019. The article touts the ONP for its vast size, nearly 1 million acres, and its spectacular biodiversity. Sequim was named as the favorite



Olympic gateway because of its convenient location, unusual weather patterns, lavender farms, local cuisine, and outdoor recreation opportunities. The list also included Hollywood, California; Normandy, France; Nagasaki, Japan; and Space.

West Fir Street Project Begins



The City of Sequim and the Sequim School District broke ground on the West Fir Street project in May. The project follows the Complete Streets model and will provide smoothly paved eastbound and westbound lanes for vehicles and bike lanes for cyclists. Pedestrians will notice improvements with the addition of concrete sidewalks on both sides of the

street and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps at intersections. Other pedestrian improvements will include street lighting, landscaping, and crossing enhancements at the Sequim Avenue intersection, the mid-block school crossing east of 2nd Avenue, and at the 5th Avenue intersection. A new traffic signal at the 5th Avenue intersection will improve vehicle operations. Project completion is expected mid-year 2020.

Sequim Civic Center Art Gallery Named for Karen Kuznek-Reese

The Sequim City Council voted unanimously in October to name the Civic Center Art Gallery the Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery in honor of the late City Clerk. Kuznek-Reese worked for the City of Sequim from 1998 to 2019. She helped to create the City Arts Advisory Commission in 2014. Her dedication and love of all artistic forms, combined with her enthusiasm and hard work were instrumental in establishing the gallery at the Civic Center as a significant, positive addition to the local arts scene.



Electric Charging Stations Open Downtown



The City of Sequim and Public Utility District No.1 of Clallam County partnered together to build two new public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at East Washington and North Govan Avenue. The charging stations can be used by EVs and plug-in hybrids, are the result of a

collaboration between the two organizations, and help to achieve the following objectives:

- Fill a need for public EV chargers on the North Olympic Peninsula.
- Meet sustainability objectives by encouraging lower emissions technologies.
- Meet economic development objectives by inviting EV drivers from out of town to our community.
- Keep Sequim clean and green.

Public Works Department Continued Pavement Rehabilitation in 2019

Pavement rehabilitation included removal of existing pavement above failed utility trenches, excavation of inadequate subgrade materials, subgrade repair, and installation of new pavement. The work was performed at:

- Oak Tree Subdivision located southeast of the intersection of North Brown Road and East Hendrickson Road.
- Olympic Crest Subdivision located southwest of the intersection of Washington Harbor Road and West Sequim Bay Road

The projects were funded with utility funds.

Deborah Weaver Recognized with Westcott Award

The sixth annual “Westcott Award” was presented to Deborah Weaver for her 2018 service as a Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) at the City Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in November.

Weaver joined the program in 2016 and in 2018 volunteered 418 hours with the Police Department.



Deborah Weaver, Mayor Dennis Smith, and Emily Westcott

The City of Sequim Creates the IDEAS Team

A new IDEAS team was established to learn and apply LEAN principles to City operations to help make processes more efficient and effective and to support the City’s organizational value of Continuous Improvement. In 2019, thirteen staff members took the yellow belt course and ten of them completed their “Just Do It” (JDI) project to earn their yellow best. A total of 16 JDI projects were completed last year with an estimated 578 hours saved with increased efficiencies. The improvement projects impacted departments throughout the City including Finance, Information Technology, Department of Community Development, Public Works, Human Resources, the City Managers Office and the City Council.



New Bocce Ball and Shuffleboard Courts Open

The City and community cut the ribbon on new bocce ball and shuffleboard courts. The courts, located to the south of the Albert Haller Playfields at Carrie Blake Park, were constructed by the City of Sequim Public Works Crew except for the shuffleboard concrete.



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