CITY OF SEQUIM News

January 2024

Meeting Dates

City Council Regular Meeting	2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Work Session (As Needed)	2nd & 4th Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission (As Needed)	1st & 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Parks, Arbor, and Recreation Board	3rd Monday 4:00 p.m.
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee	Quarterly—Next Meeting To Be Scheduled
Sequim Arts Commission	4th Monday 3:00 p.m.

The City of Sequim is currently holding hybrid meetings for the City Council and other Boards and Commissions. The public is able to participate in person or through Zoom if preferred. Visit https://sequimwa.gov, scroll to the Calendar of Events and click on the meeting. Open the agenda and click the link or call the phone number to join the meeting.

Community Survey

We Want to Hear From You!
There is Still Time to Take the Community Survey



Your input is important! Community Surveys have been mailed to City residents. You can return your survey by mail or take the survey online at https://sequimsurvey.org/. The results of the survey will help guide future programs and work plans so the City can continue to improve the services it provides to the community.

Redaction Charges

Beginning January 1, the City of Sequim will charge for redactions related to public records requests for Body Worn Cameras. Learn more at https://www.sequimwa.gov/235/Public-Records.

Be Kind #BeKindSequim

"Kindness is loving yourself enough to love those around you."

- Unknown

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Etta Street Project Complete



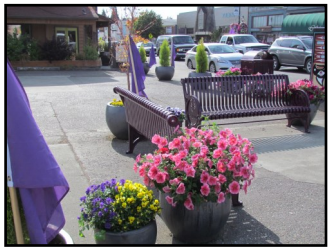
Associate Engineer Austin Wagner at the completed Etta Street.

The Etta Street Sewer and Water Improvement Project is complete. The project, which was finished on-time and $106,000 under budget, was engineered and managed by City staff with Associate Engineer Austin Wagner as the lead.

The work included replacement of the water and sewer lines, the addition of stormwater facilities, new pavement, and other associated work. The work was performed by Interwest Construction Inc., Lakeside Industries, Stripe Rite, Roadrunner Concrete Cutting, KD&S Environmental, and Clark Land Office.

Congratulations City Engineering Team!

Centennial Place Open House



The City will be hosting an Open House on Friday, January 5, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Sequim Civic Center, to receive public input on the development of Centennial Place at the Northeast corner of Sequim Avenue and Washington Street.

Three concept level designs have been developed for this space by Jett Landscape Architects, which will be available for viewing by the public.

If you are not able to participate in the Open House, there will be an opportunity to participate in an on-line survey. The link to the survey will be available in early January through the end of the month on the City of Sequim website https://sequimwa.gov.

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Become a Member of the City Team!

Check out our job openings and apply now at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sequimwa

Utility Rate Increase

In 2020, the City commissioned an extensive study of utility rates by a professional consultant that recommended a 4% annual increase to water rates and a 2% increase to sewer rates through 2030, to cover the City's costs of ongoing operations, master plans, the Capital Improvement Plan, and debt service. Since the completion of the 2020 study, the Council elected to suspend any rate increases for water and sewer services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. City staff have updated the 2020 utility model and recommended a 3-year plan of 3% per year increases for each utility to cover increased expenses. This recommendation is firmly based in quantitative data. The plan was approved for the 2023—2025 budgets.

The approved 2024 budget includes the continuation of the low-income discount policy which reduces utility bills for those who qualify.

Utility Discounts Available for Low Income Residents

Utility rate reductions are available for qualifying low income residents who receive a utility bill from the City of Sequim. You may qualify if your income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. And if you qualify for the Clallam County PUD discount, you qualify for the City's discount. The exact amount of your discount is determined upon receipt of all of the applications for the 2024 program. Qualifying applicants will see the discounted rates on their February 1 utility bill.

Applications for the 2024 discount are due **January 12, 2024** and are available at the Sequim Civic Center, DSHS, Sequim Community Aid, St. Vincent de Paul, Serenity House, United Way, and the Shipley Center. Applications can also be downloaded from our website at https://sequimwa.gov. Please feel welcome to call the Finance office at the Civic Center at (360) 683-4139 with your questions.

Sustainability Tip

Recycle Electronics!

Don't toss old electronics—recycle them! Items with rechargeable batteries (cell phones, drills) also require special disposal—they are a big fire risk when tossed in the garbage. Learn more at https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/385/Electronic-Waste.

In the Gallery...

"To Enlighten, Focus on Light and Shadow."
January 5—March 26



"Lighten Up" by Marla Varner

Join the Sequim Arts Commission for the exhibit opening and artist reception on Friday, January 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery at the Sequim Civic Center
Gallery Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

First Friday Open Music Jam on Friday, January 5



Join the Sequim Arts Commission for an Open Music Jam at the Sequim Civic Center on Friday, January 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Bring your acoustic instrument and/or your voice and join us for an informal gathering of people who like to make music. Chairs provided.

Save the Dates—March 1 & 2
5th Annual Sequim Sunshine Festival

Planning is underway for the 2024 Sequim Sunshine Festival. The festival will bring back crowd favorites and new activities. We can't always guarantee great weather, but we can guarantee a festival of fun-filled activities for the entire family.

Register now for the best price for the Sun Fun Color Run, sponsored by Peninsula Behavioral Health, at https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Sequim/SunFunColorRun .



The Illuminated Drone Show by Firefly Drone Shows, sponsored by Sound Community Bank, returns for another breathtaking display. The Interactive Light Experience, sponsored by Clallam County PUD, will have new exhibits at Pioneer Park. Enjoy the Sunshine Market, community art projects, live music, and a wide selection of great food! Learn more at https://visitsunnysequim.com/263/Sequim-Sunshine-Festival.

Volunteer for the Sunshine Festival

To volunteer for the Sun Fun Color Run please visit https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/WA/Sequim/SunFunColorRun

To volunteer for all other festival events visit https://volunteersignup.org/X4CJA

All volunteers receive a volunteer T-shirt!