CITY OF SEQUIM News



March 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 March 4 at 9:00 a.m.
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, and click on the Agendas & Minutes tab.

Rally in the Alley

Saturday, March 23
9:30 to 11: 30 a.m. (or until dumpsters are full) - No Early Birds Please

The City of Sequim, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County and Olympic Disposal, will hold the next Rally in the Alley on Saturday, March 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or until dumpsters are full. Dumpsters will be located at:

- Carrie Blake Park near the Pickleball Courts
- City Public Works Shop at 3rd and Hemlock

Volunteers will be on-site to assist City residents with discarding unwanted items at no cost to the residents. **No tires, appliances, liquid paint, gas, fuel, or oil will be accepted.**

Volunteers, please meet at the Carrie Blake Park location at 9:00 a.m. for assignments. Please contact Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Colleen Robinson at (360) 775-3742 or colleen@habitatclallam.org for more information.

Be Kind #BeKindSequim

"Kindness is spreading sunshine into other people's lives regardless of the weather." - *Unknown*

Welcome New Employee!

Nathan Gentry, Maintenance Worker—February 1

Become a Member of the City Team!

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

Sequim Sunshine Festival
March 1 & 2
Learn more at https://visitsunnysequim.com



Report Poison Hemlock

Several Sequim residents have reported finding poison hemlock in the City. Poison hemlock is a widespread toxic biennial plant in the carrot family often found in sunny areas, fields, vacant lots, and along roadsides. State law requires that landowners control poison hemlock on their property. The entire plant contains a toxic oil that can cause severe skin rashes and eye issues, and eating even a small amount of any part of this plant can kill people, livestock, and wildlife. Make sure to wear gloves when handling this plant. Described as:

- Tall biennial, reaching 8 to 10 feet the second year.
- Bright green, fernlike leaves with strong musty smell.
- First year plants form low clumps of lacy hairless leaves.
- Second year stems are stout, hollow, hairless, ribbed, with reddish or purple spotting/streaking.
- Flowering plants covered with numerous small, umbrella-shaped clusters of tiny white flowers that have five petals.
- Seeds form in green, ridged capsules that eventually turn brown.
- In late winter, look for mounds of bright green, lacy leaves. The largest clumps are second-year plants building up energy to flower and seed later in the spring.

If you see poison hemlock on your property and would like to learn more about how to safely remove it, please contact Clallam County Noxious Weed Control at 360-417-2442 or through email via their website https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/821/Noxious-Weed-Control.

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Sustainability Tip

Store Your Rainwater!

The snowpack that provides water to the Sequim area is abnormally low for this time of year. Consider installing rain barrels now to collect winter precipitation for outdoor use on gardens and lawns in late summer when we need to be extra careful with water resources. Get in the habit of collecting excess water from the sink or shower and use it to water plants. Develop a conservation mindset when it comes to one of our most precious resources - water! Every little bit helps.

IRS Tax Scam Warning

The Sequim Police Department is warning the public that it is common this time of year for tax scam phone calls with callers claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and demanding payment for money owed. The public is advised to be cautious and to never give personal information over the phone.

If you receive a call that you suspect is a scam, do not give any personal information and hang up. The Washington State Attorney General's Office has set up an online blog where consumers can report phone scams. Go to www.atg.wa.gov and search for phone scams.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam. Visit https://tinyurl.com/wbk32mx8. Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/3hhk7nyv.

Building Department Personnel at Training

The Building Official and DCD Specialist will be attending the Washington Association of Building Officials Annual Education Institute from Monday, March 25 through Thursday, March 28. Permit applications may still be submitted via email to buildingdept@sequimwa.gov, but they may not be processed until Friday, March 29, or Monday, April 1.

Inspections will still occur (via CodePros) during the closure, but requests will need to be received by 2 p.m. the prior business day. Call 360-683-4908 ext. 2 to schedule an inspection. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we process improve to better serve you.

As always, please make sure that the address number is visibly posted, and that all permits, plans, and engineering documentation are available on-site.

Your Department of Community Development



Charisse Deschenes, Asst. City Manager/ Community and Economic Development Director
Emily Coler, DCD Specialist
Joel Dressel, Building Official
Travis Simmons, Assistant Planner

As the custodians of growth and development in our City, the Department of Community Development (DCD) oversees a spectrum of crucial services, from comprehensive growth strategies, current planning land use review, building permit review, inspections, and code compliance, to economic development.

This year marks the start of the Comprehensive Plan (CP) periodic update. The CP is a 20-year look at the community's vision for its future growth and development. It serves as a guide for decision-making regarding land use, transportation, utilities, housing, economic development, safety, environmental protection, parks, culture, and other aspects of community life. A big portion of the CP is working alongside community members to vision, create, and provide feedback to help craft a plan that is representative of the community it serves. Expect to see announcements of public meetings and workshops over the next year. The new Comprehensive Plan branding includes a new website where the public will be able to access the latest information regarding the planning efforts www.sequimagine.org. Development Standards will also be reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Plan, and in 2025 – 2026, the City is working with the consultant to bring forward a Unified Development Code that will make the development process clearer for customers.

In 2023, our efforts were evident as we processed 252 building permits and 34 land use cases, completing a total of 614 inspections. Looking ahead to 2024, the community can anticipate exciting advancements. We are introducing a user-friendly map interface on our Current Projects webpage, along with website updates and the implementation of new permitting software. As we embark on these endeavors, we invite you to stay engaged and involved in shaping the future of our city.

Additionally, the DCD staff is a small team. To provide the best customer service, we request that you either call or email us to set up an appointment for questions that would exceed 15 minutes (this includes submitting plans). You can reach us at 360-683-4908 or via email at buildingdept@sequimwa.gov or planningdept@sequimwa.gov.