



# SEQUIM NEWS

February 2010

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR  
PRESIDENTS' DAY - February 15, 2010**

## Meeting Dates & Locations

City Council Regular Meeting - Transit Center	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Study Session - Transit Center (when required)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Transit Center	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Park Advisory Board PW - 615 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Design Review Board PW - 615 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 5:00 p.m.
Sequim Marketing Action Committee - Transit Center	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 1:00 p.m.
Centennial Committee Transit Center Conf. Room	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
Sequim Speaks - Transit Center	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6:30 p.m.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS - (Subject to Change)

**February 22:** Amendment to SMC 17.20.080 Expiration and Request for Extension

## CITY'S YARD WASTE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

The City of Sequim's yard waste program located at the City shop at 169 W Hemlock is being **discontinued effective February 1, 2010**. D.M. Disposal Co., Inc. is offering an optional yard waste service beginning February 1, 2010. To sign up for this service or if you have any questions regarding the yard waste program or other solid waste collection or recycling services offered, please contact DM Disposal at 452-7278 between 8 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

## GLASS RECYCLING

The City of Sequim has received many comments from citizens regarding recycling and solid waste collection in the City. Although the City contracts with a private company, DM Disposal, for these services, we do want to be involved in resolving citizen concerns, when appropriate.

At its January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council heard information about the glass recycling issue. Kent Kovalenko of DM Disposal advised the Council that all its customers in the City have received a brochure about the new solid waste services and changes to existing solid waste services. He explained the need to remove glass from the list of recyclables which can be accepted at curbside. The commingling of glass with other recyclables causes much of the materials that should be recycled into future glass products to end up in a landfill instead. DM Disposal is working with Daishowa Mill to attempt to recycle a number of items locally. Separation of glass from the other recyclables makes this possible. Mr. Kovalenko informed the Council that the City of Port Angeles is separating glass from other recyclables and has thereby increased its recycling and had only a small reduction in glass at its glass receiving facilities.

The issue of separating glass from other recyclables has been studied and debated extensively. Research suggests that if glass is commingled with other recyclables, while it is more convenient, less of the materials will ultimately be recycled because of contamination by broken glass. For those interested, the City's website contains links that discuss how other cities and counties are handling this issue. See [Glass Recycling](#) on the City's main webpage, [www.ci.sequim.wa.us](http://www.ci.sequim.wa.us).

The City does understand that this new manner of dealing with glass recyclables makes it less convenient for customers to recycle glass because you need to take the glass to one of the sites set out in DM Disposal's recent notice. However, people who can't make those arrangements will need to place their glass in the regular solid waste containers, not the recycle bin. The glass recycle locations are **Evergreen Collision Center, 703 E. Washington Street**, and **Sequim Village Center, 609 W. Washington Street**. Look for the glass recycling depot boxes in the parking lot of each location.

The City would have preferred to have this information further in advance so we could explain the situation to our citizens. However, it does appear that this trade-off in convenience will result in more of our waste being recycled.

Steve Burkett, City Manager



## Utility Rate Increase

At the November 23, 2009 City Council meeting, the Council approved an increase to water & sewer rates. The water increase is 3.5% and the sewer increase is 15%.

As mentioned in the January newsletter... State law and covenants of grants and bonds used by the City to finance water and sewer systems require the water and sewer utilities to cover the cost of operations through monthly user rates. Operating costs also include financing, replacement, system upgrades, and reserves. The large increase in Sewer rates for 2009 and 2010 was needed to cover the cost of the \$11 million sewer system expansion.

The increase is reflected on your February 2010 statement.

## WATER METER CHANGES

In the coming months, many existing meters will be replaced with new Sensus meters. The electronic part, called a collar, on some of the old meters has stopped working properly. When this occurs the meters do not report water usage properly. To obtain an accurate reading, City employees must manually read the non-electronic part of the meter, which has been recording usage correctly.

Sensus meters will eliminate this problem since they are designed differently. In the future, these new meters will also provide a great opportunity to implement more features and provide more detailed information. We look forward to accomplishing these changes to serve you better.

## 2010 U.S. CENSUS – COMING IN MARCH

### How It Affects the Nation

### *We Can't Move Forward Until You Mail It Back*

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and it is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. Coming soon to your snail-mail box will be the 2010 U.S. Census form. It's so important you complete the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. People from many walks of life use Census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community: better infrastructure; more services; a brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the Census collects helps to determine how more than **\$400 billion dollars** of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Job training centers
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Senior Centers
- ◆ Bridges, tunnels and other public works projects
- ◆ Emergency services

**Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory. Please participate promptly!**

## Sequim History – 1961

- ❖ Property owners with two homes on one lot began paying utilities for both homes.
- ❖ Dr. Jay Sherman was sworn in as Justice of Peace.
- ❖ Council agreed property owners would not be charged utilities on vacancies upon written notice to the City Clerk. There were no refunds for those who failed to contact the Clerk.
- ❖ Omar Tripp was appointed to fill the vacancy on Council of Carl Thurston, who resigned due to the possible financial liability the State imposes on Councilors.
- ❖ Iris Marshall was re-appointed Fire Marshall for the Sequim Volunteer Fire Department.
- ❖ Council approved a Recreation District.