



## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**



## The City of Sequim Declared a State of Emergency and Responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Sequim City Council declared a State of Civil Emergency on March 16, 2020 authorizing the Police Department and other City staff to take the steps necessary to ensure that the effects of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic would be minimized in the City of Sequim. One of the first actions was closing the Sequim Civic Center to the public to protect residents and City staff. City services shifted to phone calls, the website, and virtual meetings.



The City partnered with Fire District 3 and the Sequim School District to jointly open the Emergency Coordinating Center (ECC). The ECC supported the efforts of the Clallam County Emergency Operations Center by focusing on efforts specific to the Sequim region including public information, response logistics, identification of resources, and support of community initiatives such as mask and gown production and drop-off center coordination.

Small businesses were supported through the development of the Small Business Rapid Relief Fund (SBRRF) grant program. The City partnered with the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce to develop and administer the program and provided \$510,000 in available funds from the City's Rainy Day Fund to help small businesses that were impacted by the pandemic. Fifty eight local businesses were assisted by the program. Restaurants were one of the most highly impacted business sectors and the City designed a program to allow restaurants to create outdoor dining spaces that would comply with City building codes and the Governor's orders relating to COVID-19.



Additional grant monies were made available to local non-profit organizations that support tourism activities in Sequim. \$50,000 from the Lodging Tax Fund helped 11 organizations better prepare for the tourism season and weather the impacts of the pandemic through the Tourism Sustainability Grant Program.



The pandemic increased the need for human services in Sequim. The Sequim City Council would typically support those services through an annual \$75,000 contract with the Sequim Health and Housing Collaborative. The Council added an additional \$95,000 in funding in the 2020 budget to help ensure the community needs were being met.

Many families experienced financial difficulties due to the pandemic. The City developed a Utility Relief Program for those having difficulty in paying their utility bill and suspended delinquency fees and service disconnection during the crisis.

Response to the pandemic has been a true community effort with many organizations taking the lead to support the efforts. The City provided space and support to the Sequim Food Bank for their COVID-19 Food Distribution program and to the Jamestown Family Health Clinic for their drive-through vaccination clinics.



## Fir Street Construction Complete

A drive-through ribbon cutting ceremony was held in July to celebrate the completion of the West Fir Street Rehabilitation construction project. The project began in May 2019 and followed the Complete Streets model. The rehabilitation provides smoothly paved eastbound and westbound lanes



for vehicles and bike lanes for cyclists. Pedestrian improvements include 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 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 was installed to improve vehicle operations.

## Park Water Stations and Bigbelly Trash and Recycling Stations Installed as a part of the People's Project

The Public Works Department completed the installation of nine new water stations at Sequim City Parks as a result of a public vote through The People's Project, a participatory budgeting program. The community was asked for input on how to spend up to \$150,000 in the 2020 budget. Five potential projects were identified through input received at a Neighborhood Visioning Meeting and "Dare to Dream" cards. The community selected the water stations because they promote sustainability through water bottle reuse and help to keep the community hydrated. The second choice was smart, solar powered Bigbelly Automated Trash and Recycling Stations that alert waste management when they need to be serviced. There was money in the budget to pilot this program and two stations were installed in downtown Sequim.



## Solar Panels Installed at Sequim Civic Center

The installation of 132 solar panels on the roof of the Civic Center was completed. The panels were connected to the City's utility grid in May and began generating energy.



On a sunny day, it is expected that the panels will produce 143KWh, equal to approximately 9.4% of what the building uses. It is expected that the City will save approximately \$3,700 on annual power bills for the Civic Center and the building's carbon footprint will be reduced by 21.7 tons per year.

## Sequim Police Department Earned Renewed Accreditation



The Sequim Police Department earned renewed accreditation from the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), making it one of approximately 60 State accredited police departments out of more than 300 law enforcement agencies in Washington State.

The purpose of law enforcement agency accreditation is to professionalize the law enforcement industry by providing a review process to certify that agencies are operating under the best industry practices and standards. The Sequim Police Department was first accredited in 2016 after moving into their new facility at the Civic Center. Re-accreditation happens every four years and is often a more difficult accomplishment. This reflects an adherence and performance to high standards every day, with all work processes and performance over all four years.

## Wastewater Treatment Plant Award

The City of Sequim Water Reclamation Facility received a "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award" for 2019 by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). The Sequim Reclamation Facility has received the award for achieving full compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Only 125 systems out of approximately 300 received the award in 2019.

## First Sequim Sunshine Festival

The City of Sequim held the first Sequim Sunshine Festival the first weekend of March in 2020. The festival was designed to help bring relief from the winter blues and celebrate the coming of the spring and summer seasons with activities that focused on light, art, fun and physical



activity for all ages. Highlights of the festival included the Sun Fun Color Run, an Interactive Light Experience, a restaurant romp, 3-D sidewalk art, a beach party dinner and dance, and a choreographed, illuminated drone show. The first-year event was considered a success by organizers and attendees and is expected to continue in future years.



## Arbor Day Celebration

The City planted six new clumping birch trees in Pioneer Memorial Park to celebrate Arbor Day. The celebration recognizes Sequim's designation as a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation. The City plans its Arbor Day Foundation in the fall season when it is the best time for planting trees.



## June Robinson Community Garden Makeover

The Community Garden at June Robinson Memorial Park got a makeover to provide a more enjoyable and equitable gardening experience for participants. The Sequim Public Works crew and Parks Department rebuilt the raised beds, made the garden plots equal in size and more accessible for gardeners, built a ramped entrance to the park, and replaced the soil in the beds to mitigate the risk of spreading white rot fungi.



*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

- Aesop

## 2021 Declared the Year of Kindness

Be  Kind  
#BeKindSequim

The Sequim City Council proclaimed 2021 the Year of Kindness in Sequim at the last Council meeting of the year. The proclamation stated the social and economic impact of the global pandemic, racial and equity tensions, the restrictions on in-person gatherings, the presidential election, and community polarization due to the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic as reasons

to encourage community members, businesses, and nonprofits to initiate a series of activities in support of acts of kindness to reignite our sense of community. Throughout 2021, the City will be giving tips and offering activities that support kindness in the community.



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