



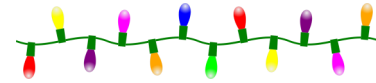
CITY OF SEQUIM News



December 2021

Meeting Dates

City Council Regular Meeting	2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Work Session	2nd & 4th Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Parks, Arbor, and Recreation Board	3rd Monday 4:00 p.m.
Lodging Tax Advisory Comm.	Quarterly—Next Meeting December 1—9:00 a.m.
Arts Advisory Commission	3rd Monday 3:00 p.m.



City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 23 and 24 in observance of the Christmas holiday and on Friday, December 31 for the New Years holiday.

Welcome New Employees!

- Matthew Huish**—City Manager—11/1
- Timothy Wright** —Water Reclamation Facility Operator—11/16
- Robert Whalen**—Water Reclamation Facility Operator—11/16

The Sequim City Council and other Board and Commission meetings will be held online during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meetings are held on Zoom. Visit <https://sequimwa.gov>, scroll down to the Calendar of Events and click on the meeting. Open the agenda and click the link or call the phone number.

Garden Plots Available at June Robinson Memorial Park

A limited number of garden plots are coming available at June Robinson Memorial Park. Rentals are \$45 for the year and will open on January 1, 2022. Please contact Administrative Assistant Karen Abbott at kabbott@sequimwa.gov or (360) 582-2454.

Road Priorities During Winter Storms



The winter months are upon us and that means the possibility of winter storms.

During snow storms, the City crew concentrates on clearing the main arterials first. Washington Street, Sequim Avenue, 5th Avenue, 3rd Avenue, overpasses, and school routes (when school is in session) are the top priorities.

As cold weather approaches, City crews spread magnesium chloride, a liquid de-icing agent, on areas that are prone to freeze.

The City asks the community to help by clearing snow from sidewalks that adjoin their homes and businesses.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.sequimwa.gov/583/Snow-and-Ice-Removal>.

Holiday Meal Bag Distribution

The Sequim Food Bank is offering Family Holiday Meal Bags on Friday December 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Carrie Blake Park. Drivers are asked to use the north entrance on Blake Avenue, by the Water Reuse Demonstration Site, where they will be directed to volunteers who will load their car.

The program is supported by the City of Sequim Emergency Management Team as part of the on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please contact Emergency Management Coordinator Tyler Wiles at (360) 582-5730 or twiles@sequimwa.gov.

“How beautiful a day can be when, kindness touches it.”

- George Elliston



December Kindness Ideas:

- Leave a surprise for your mail carrier in your mailbox
- Write a hand-written letter
- Go to your favorite spot
- Hold a teddy bear drive

COVID-19 Update
WASHINGTON READY

Washington Ready

The State of Washington is currently operating under the Washington Ready plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and the Delta variant, Clallam County and the State of Washington have both implemented a mask mandate for anyone aged 5 and older for indoor public spaces regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not.

Beginning on September 4, the Clallam County Health Department issued a mandate that patrons of bars and restaurants must show proof of vaccination to dine or drink indoors. Takeout and outdoor dining are an option at many businesses and require no proof of vaccination. Learn more at <http://www.clallam.net/HHS/>.

To learn more about the State's COVID-19 response, please visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

On November 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expanded recommendations for booster shots for adults ages 18 years and over for anyone who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months after their second dose. Contact your pharmacy to learn more.

It is more important than ever that the community follow all COVID-19 safety precautions:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hygiene
- Clean and sanitize surfaces
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Get tested if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others

To learn more about the Governor's Washington Ready plan visit <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/WashingtonReady.pdf> for details.

The Sequim Civic Center is Open to the Public

The Sequim Civic Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Masks are required for anyone entering City buildings to protect themselves and City staff.

The public is encouraged to conduct business with the City by telephone or on-line whenever possible. If an in-person meeting is necessary, please schedule an appointment.

Notice of Utility Rate Change

The Sequim City Council has adopted 2022 utility rate structure changes which will affect **commercial and public authority** customers beginning January 1, 2022. These changes are an effort to more equitably balance the cost of the utilities with the customers who utilize most of the service and resource.

Beginning January 1, 2022, **commercial and public authority** water and sewer base rates will shift over the course of two years to a 5/8" AWWA meter factor, instead of the 3/4 AWWA meter factor currently in effect. This results in an increase to the **base rate only** of these customers by 25% per year for two years. This change only affects accounts with meters larger than the standard 5/8" and reflects the additional capacity for water and sewer flow expense to the utility which has been absorbed by smaller users in the past. There is **no change to the volume rate for any utility customers in 2022.**

A separate letter will be mailed in December to customers who are affected by this change, specifically addressing what changes can be expected.

Another change adopted by Council is the elimination of the two tier sewer base rate for Single Family Customers. This two tier system was difficult to administer and confusing to the customer. Beginning January 1, 2022, the second (higher) tier for customers utilizing >600 average cubic feet of water will be eliminated, thus reducing the sewer base rate for second tier customers by \$9.52 per month.

Utility Discounts Available for Low Income Residents

To financially assist those struggling to meet their basic needs, utility rate reductions are available for qualifying low income residents. 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 will be administratively determined upon receipt of all of the applications for the 2022 program. Qualifying applicants will see the discounted rates on their February 1 bill.

Applications for the 2022 discount are due **January 15, 2022** 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 don't hesitate to call the Finance office at the Civic Center at (360) 683-4139 with your questions.