CITY OF SEQUIM News

December 2025

Prevent Frozen Pipes

Cold weather is coming, and a little preparation can help prevent costly water damage from frozen pipes. Because water expands as it freezes, temperatures below 32°F can create enough pressure inside your plumbing to crack or burst lines. Outside and indoor pipes in unheated spaces like basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages, exterior walls, or even behind kitchen cabinets, may be at risk. Drain outdoor water lines annually and add insulation to at-risk pipes and any under-insulated areas of your home. When a freeze is forecasted, turn faucets to a slow drip ahead of, and during, the cold snap to keep water moving and reduce the chance of freezing.

Going Out of Town for a Few Months This Winter?

If you live in the Sequim city limits and are on City water, consider having your water shut off at the meter by the City. There is a one-time charge of $45.00 (rate through December 2025). You would only be billed a stand-by fee of $29.84 for water and $29.84 for sewer (rates through December 2025) per month.

You will need to contact the Civic Center at 360-683-4139 or utilpay@sequimwa.gov to have your water turned off.

After the meter has been shut off, there may still be water in the lines. Turn a faucet on until no remaining water comes through, then turn off the faucet. If possible, turn off the water valve going into the house, if you have one.

When you are ready to return, call the Sequim Civic Center at 360-683-4139 at least **two** business days prior to your arrival to have the water turned on. **Please note: Someone will need to be at your home when the meter is turned on.**

Become a Member of the City Team!

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

City offices will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 24 and remain closed through Friday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Offices are also closed on Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Civic Center Holiday Tree Lighting



Join the Sequim Arts Commission for the Annual Civic Center Holiday Tree Lighting and Open House, Friday, December 5, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., at 152 West Cedar Street. The tree will be decorated with ornaments created by local 4th grade or 9 year old students with the theme "What Brings You Joy." Live music and light refreshments will be provided. Following the tree lighting, enjoy the "Black & White" art exhibit in the Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery.

Save March 7 for the 2026 Sequim Sunshine Festival

You won't want to miss this fun-filled day designed to get people outdoors, be creative, and enjoy our community. We'll shake off the winter blues and celebrate the coming spring and summer seasons with a host of activities for the whole family.

Go to visitsunnysequim.com for the latest information and to register for the Sun Fun Color Run.

Community Open Music Jam December 19

Join the Sequim Arts Commission for the Open Music Jam on Friday, December 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Swisher Rehearsal Hall at the James Center for the Performing Arts, 506 N. Blake Avenue. Bring your acoustic instrument, percussion, or voice. The music and lyrics will be provided. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Public Meetings

The City of Sequim holds regular meetings for the City Council and other boards, commissions, and committees. Please visit the City website calendar at sequimwa.gov for the schedule. Click on the Agendas and Minutes tab for the agendas.

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Holiday Sustainability Tip

Ready to make your holidays more evergreen? Embrace ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle to keep celebrations magical but low-waste. Decorate with the abundance of secondhand items or natural materials and craft thoughtful gift baskets that include thrifted or regifted treasures. Wrap presents in old paper, fabric, or reused bags, or skip the wrap and give local experiences, food, and entertainment instead. Like partridges and pear trees, a little creativity in gift giving and decor can create festive, sustainable, and low-waste celebrations.

Keep the Wildlife Wild: A Big Win for Ducks, Parks, and People!

Thank you to everyone who is helping to support the "*Don't Feed the Ducks*" campaign. The parks (and the ducks) are healthier and happier than ever. Here's what these efforts are achieving:

Healthier Wildlife:

- **Fewer ducks = healthier ducks.** The park's duck population has naturally balanced out—no more overcrowding or scrappy unhealthy birds.
- **Natural diets restored.** Ducks are eating real "duck food" again—pond plants, seeds, and insects—not bread and corn. (We even think the widgeons are helping to retrain the mallards to eat right.)

Safer, Cleaner Spaces:

- **No more parking lot loitering.** Ducks have stopped hanging out in the parking areas waiting for handouts—making things safer for both ducks and drivers.
- **Cleaner parks and paths.** Less duck droppings on walkways, playing fields, and parking lots—which means fewer slips, less smell, and cleaner shoes!
- **Healthier environment for everyone.** Reduced waste means less risk of bacteria or parasites tracked home by people or pets.

Smart Savings:

- **Less maintenance = more savings.** With fewer ducks overgrazing, and less mess to clean, the City saves on upkeep. The grass stays greener, and maintenance crews can focus on improving other park features.

A Win for All

By keeping wildlife wild, we're protecting natural behaviors, improving park cleanliness, and making spaces safer and more enjoyable for everyone—ducks included!

Successful Drug Take Back Day

Thank you to everyone who dropped off medication for destruction at the October 25 National Drug Take Back Day. The City collected 51 pounds of prescription and non-prescription drugs, keeping them out of the landfill and our water systems.

Drugs can be dropped off at the Sequim Civic Center Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New Way to Contact the Department of Community and Economic Development

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is pleased to share that it has a new way to connect with customers. DCED staff is now available via text Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Text us with your questions at 360-912-4432. DCED staff is also available via email at dced@sequimwa.gov, by phone at 360-683-4908, and by appointment. Book an appointment with DCED staff at sequimwa.gov/1328/Book-a-meeting-with-DCED-Staff.

Contact Other Departments

Public Works at 360-683-5062 for questions, about tree trimming, parks and facility rentals, street sweeping, street lights, or locating water and sewer lines.

Finance Department at 360-683-4139 to pay your utility bill or to pay for a permit.

Road Priorities During Snowstorms

The winter season is upon us, and Public Works (PW) crews are prepared. During snowstorms, the crews concentrate on clearing the main arterials first. Washington Street, Sequim Avenue, 5th Avenue, 3rd Avenue, overpasses, and school routes (when schools are in session) are the top priorities.

Residents can view a map of the snow-clearing routes on the City of Sequim website.

PW crews spread magnesium chloride, a liquid deicing agent, on main arterials and overpasses when temperatures drop below freezing and roads are wet. When roads are dry they use a brine solution to keep roads from freezing. They will use a mix of salt and sand to help with traction when snow begins to accumulate.

There are 54 miles of City-owned roads and alleyways in the City of Sequim, in addition to parking lots and sidewalks. There are also 19 miles of private streets and roadways within the city limits that the City does not clear. The City asks the community to help by clearing snow from the sidewalks that adjoin their homes and businesses.

In the Gallery...

"Black & White"

On display now through January 21

Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery at the Sequim Civic Center

Gallery Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.