CITY OF SEQUIM News



February 2026

New Street Banners



The City's Public Works Street Crew recently installed new light pole banners throughout Sequim. The banners replace the "Be Kind" banners that have been on the poles since 2021.

The new banners have two different designs. One represents the agricultural heritage of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley with fields of green and purple acknowledging local organic produce farms and Sequim lavender. The other represents the Dungeness River with a salmon jumping out of the water, acknowledging the importance of the river, wildlife, and the water that fuels our irrigation ditches. Both banners have bright sunny skies.

The banners are intended to welcome residents and visitors and brighten City streets.

Sequim Sunshine Festival March 7

The Sequim Sunshine Festival is almost here! Shake off the winter blues and welcome the spring and summer seasons at the Sequim Sunshine Festival March 7, at Carrie Blake Park. The day will be filled with family-friendly events, including the popular Sun Fun Color Run, Sunshine Market, live music, delicious food and drinks, and the fantastic illuminated drone show. The Interactive Light Experience will be held at the Pioneer Memorial Park Club House on the evening of Friday, March 6, and on Saturday, March 7.





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

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, for Presidents' Day.



Welcome New Employee!

Aason Judd - Intern—1/21

Become a Member of the City Team!

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

Continuous Improvement for Greater Customer Service

Over the past year and a half, the City of Sequim has implemented new utility billing software that allows staff to check customer accounts daily for any system warnings, helping them to alert customers of potential leaks or problems that will affect their usage and utility bill. View our video youtu.be/JTItBqtI3OA to see how the new system recently helped one of our customers.

Proposed Updates to Sequim's Development Codes

The City of Sequim has released draft updates to its development code, including a full update to **Title 17 (Land Division)** and a new **Chapter 18.21 (Housing Requirements)**. These changes respond to new State laws and are intended to make local regulations clearer, more consistent, and more supportive of housing needs.

The updates modernize land division rules and create a new, easy-to-use housing chapter that brings together requirements for accessory dwelling units, affordable housing, supportive and emergency housing, and parking standards. Together, these changes aim to reduce barriers to housing while maintaining community standards.

Public review and comment opportunities has begun through Planning Commission and City Council meetings. For the full calendar of events, visit the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update page on the City's website. Draft materials and participation details are also available for viewing.

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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Tax Scam Alert



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 on-line blog where consumers can report phone scams. Go to 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. To recognize the telltale signs of a scam, visit irs.gov/help/how-to-know-its-the-irs for information.

Project Lifesaver Program

The Sequim Police Department is proud to administer the Project Lifesaver program for Eastern Clallam County.

If someone in your care is at risk of "wandering" due to Alzheimer's, Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, Dementia, Down Syndrome, or other cognitive disorders, Project Lifesaver can help law enforcement locate them and deliver them safely home.

The program utilizes LoJack SafetyNet radio frequency tracking technology through a bracelet worn by the individual. The average length of a search is 30 minutes.

To learn more about the Project Lifesaver program, visit the City website sequimwa.gov/297/Project-Lifesaver or call the Sequim Police Department at 360-683-7227.

In the Gallery...

"Moving the Mail"

On display February 2—13

Produced by the North Olympic History Center, the "Moving the Mail" exhibition displays the history of mail delivery on the North Olympic Peninsula and highlights the many ways mail has moved across this isolated area from the 1950's onward.

Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery at the Sequim Civic Center
Gallery Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Importance of Obtaining a Sign Permit

Securing a sign permit in Sequim is crucial for several reasons:

- **Compliance with Regulations**: Ensures all signage aligns with local zoning laws and avoids legal issues.
- **Aesthetic Standards**: Maintains city aesthetics, ensuring consistency with the community's character.
- **Safety Compliance**: Verifies that signs are structurally safe, minimizing risks to the public.
- **Environmental Considerations**: Prevents negative environmental impact and light pollution.

Types of Prohibited Signs

According to SMC Chapter 18.58, the following sign types are prohibited:

1. **Flashing or Blinking Signs**: Considered distracting and unsafe for drivers.
2. **Portable Trailer Signs**: Not permitted unless specified exceptions are met.
3. **Signs with Moving Parts**: Mechanical or wind-activated features are generally banned.
4. **Roof Signs**: Prohibited due to structural and visual concerns.
5. **Abandoned or Dilapidated Signs**: Required to be removed if not relevant to the business.
6. **Festoons**: Not allowed as they can be visually cluttering.

Application Process

Comprehensive plans with design and placement details must be submitted. Applications are evaluated for compliance with zoning and building standards. Approved signs must be installed as per the submitted plans.

Sustainability Tip - Bring a Reusable Bag

Plastic bags can cause major problems in Washington's recycling facilities, waterways, roadways, and the environment, which led to a ban on single-use plastic bags in 2021.

In January 2026 minimum fees for plastic film carry-out bags will increase from 8 cents to 12 cents per bag, while the fee for paper bags will remain 8 cents. However, businesses are allowed to charge more than the required minimum fee. Avoid these added costs by bringing a reusable bag. Help reduce environmental impacts of plastic bags and prevent them from becoming litter.

Community Open Music Jam February 20

Join the Sequim Arts Commission for the Open Music Jam on Friday, February 20—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.