

# MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Neighbors,

As we dry out from our wet February, I would like to take the chance to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our great City volunteers and staff. Heavy rains and snow melt caused flooding beyond our normally high water levels in the winter. Without missing a beat, our volunteers showed up in force and, along with city staff, deployed sandbags to residents and businesses in need to prepare for the rising rivers.

Part of the success of our response is due to our new flood building and sandbagging machine at the City Public Works Yard. A few years ago, City Councilmember Rocky Walker came up with an idea for building and equipment to help us be better prepared in the event of a flood. Working with staff, Councilmember Walker designed the building and layout and we went to work to find the funding for it. We were successful in lobbying for a state legislative proviso to completely fund the building and equipment. Construction was completed on it last year.

This new setup allows us to stock the shelves with pallets of sandbags, shrink-wrapped, and ready to deploy at any time. The machine can be run by three volunteers to fill, sew shut, and stack the sandbags onto pallets. This new system allows us to reduce our response time and do more with the resources we have. I would like to personally thank Councilmember Rocky Walker and our volunteer lead Elizabeth Emmons for their great work and dedication to our community in these times of need.

Last month, I wrote about the upcoming bus trip to Olympia to talk about Highway 2. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, I joined residents, business owners, and community leaders as we traveled down to our state's Capitol in

Olympia to share our desperate need for improvements to Highway 2. The specific ask was for \$1.4 million for a corridor study to identify the needs and put together a plan moving forward. We were well received during our meetings as many legislators, from every part of the state, had sat in Friday or Sunday traffic on Highway 2 before. If we are successful in receiving funding for the study, we will be that much closer to finding a permanent solution to our highway problems in Sultan and all along the corridor.

If you use social media or visit our website, I hope you have noticed an increase in the communication from City Hall about the goings on in our community and during special weather events such as snow and flooding. One of my priorities coming into office has been better communication with residents so you know what we are doing at the City of Sultan and have the opportunity to provide your feedback or comments. We will continue to be proactive with our information sharing through our Official City Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/sultanwashingtongovernment](http://www.facebook.com/sultanwashingtongovernment)) and website ([www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)).

If you have any thoughts or ideas about how we can better share information, please reach out to me and let me know.

As always, I am available to you to discuss your City government and how we can better serve you. Please do not hesitate in reaching out to me any time at 360.454.4145 or [Russell.Wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:Russell.Wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us).

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita  
Mayor  
City of Sultan



## Volunteers are Appreciated and Needed



Volunteers are a key part of our great community. This became even more evident with the recent flooding. The City watched as the volunteers came out to support their neighbors as the flood water rose.

One family in particular spent a couple of hours working our sand bagging equipment to build pallets of sandbags that protected a number of homes and businesses from additional damage.

If you, your family and friends would like to help out in the future, please reach out to City Hall at 360.793.2231 or by emailing [cityhall@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.sultan.wa.us). Provide us with your name, email and phone number and the City will add you to our list. Thank you for your help and support.

## MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

All Meetings Held Community Room at 319 Main Street  
Unless Otherwise Noted

MARCH 3	Planning Board—7:00 pm
MARCH 9	Community Alliance Meeting—5:30 pm
MARCH 12	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Subcommittee Meeting—6:00 p.m.
MARCH 17	Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website
MARCH 23	Community Alliance Meeting—5:30 pm
MARCH 26	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Subcommittee Meeting—6:00 p.m.

## NEED HELP WITH YOUR SULTAN UTILITY BILL?

Don't wait until your water is shut off. Past due payments or payment arrangements **MUST** be made by **5:00PM on March 24th**. If you are a **RENTER**, the owner needs to approve any payment arrangement. Please contact us at 360.793.2231.

 <b>MARCH/APRIL GARBAGE PICK UP</b> 	
Zone A	<b>MARCH 9</b> <b>MARCH 23</b> <b>APRIL 6</b> <b>APRIL 20</b>
Zone B	<b>MARCH 12</b> <b>MARCH 26</b> <b>APRIL 9</b> <b>APRIL 23</b>
Zone C	<b>MARCH 2</b> <b>MARCH 16</b> <b>MARCH 30</b> <b>APRIL 13</b> <b>APRIL 27</b>
Zone D	<b>MARCH 5</b> <b>MARCH 19</b> <b>APRIL 2</b> <b>APRIL 16</b> <b>APRIL 30</b>



IS THE CITY ON FACEBOOK?



Social media is a growing tool used to communicate in our fast-paced lives. The City has a Facebook presence as a way to keep our customers informed of what we are up to. However, in a quick search on Facebook for Sultan many options are available. How do you know which page is the official City Facebook page? Watch for the logos shown above to confirm that you are in the right spot.

Did you know the City actually has two Facebook pages? One for official city business, and one for the Sultan Community Alliance. We use these pages to inform the public of upcoming events, urgent issues occurring within the city, and general information that you might find useful. We monitor these pages and respond to general questions. Occasionally, if your question is more specific, our response might be to give us a call or email us so we can talk with you one on one.

Facebook is a great tool to spread the word and provide information. As a city, we also make sure your privacy and safety are protected when responding. Be sure to "Like" us and follow both our pages as one more tool to stay informed in this beautiful community we live in.

**\*\*INFORMATION & EVENTS\*\***

**City Hall is located at 319 Main Street, Sultan WA**  
**Office Hours: Monday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Tuesday through Friday: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Phone 360.793.2231 • Fax 360.793.3344 •**

# BUILDING CORNER

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RENOVATE YOUR HOME WITHOUT A PERMIT?

Renovating your home offers you a chance to increase your property values while improving your own quality of life while living in your home. While minor projects like replacing flooring or counter tops typically do not require a permit, once you start moving a sink or an oven range hood, you need to check with us at City Hall.

Some might say it is too costly or "I don't need the extra paper work and frustration in my life". As such, you may be inclined to skip the permit and hope you don't get caught, but that decision could really hurt you in the long run. Snohomish County reviews our permits and adds them to the tax rolls for square footage and all other work permitted on your property. Without permits, your project upgrades, new habitable space, new deck and covers etc., will not be documented and when you sell your home, it needs to coincide with the tax rolls. Realtors are requesting building files when a home goes on the market to verify if improvements were permitted. The City re-

tains building files to provide as public documents, if work completed was permitted or not. If not, there could be ramifications, additional costs, or actually removing the work done to verify structural loading, concealed plumbing, electrical work, fire walls etc. Please don't let this happen to you.

Finally, permits are not just pieces of paper giving you the right to make changes to your home and property. They come with inspections from subject matter professionals! We know if it's not right and can make contractors fix elements that can be harmful or sometimes, heaven forbid, even fatal.

Remember we here at City Hall are here for you! We are simply people doing the best job we can to make sure you are safe and comfortable in your community.

Richard Karns, CBO  
 Building Official, City of Sultan

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

The City has implemented a new phone system that allows us to contact you, our utility customers, regarding emergencies or schedule changes to our services. This system can contact you via phone and email. In order to ensure your contact information is up to date, please email us at [cityhall@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.sultan.wa.us) or call us at 360.793.2231 and provide us with the most up to date contact information on how to reach you.

## PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE! NO FEES!

*Want to save some paper?*

**SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS OR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS!!**

**Go to our website at [www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)**

## PHONE IN BILL PAY

### ONE MORE WAY TO PAY YOUR BILL.

How can I pay my City utility bill? Let me count the ways.

1. Mail a check or money order to PO Box 1199, Sultan, WA 98294
2. Drop Box a check or money order in one of two drop box locations.  
 There is one located at the post office outside the main entrance and another in City Hall just inside the entrance doors on Main Street.
3. In person with Cash, Check, Credit, or Debit Card at City Hall located at 319 Main Street, Sultan, WA 98294 (no fee to pay with debit or credit).
4. Online with Credit, Debit, or Checking Account at <https://sultanwa.merchantransact.com/default.aspx> - (no fee for this service)
5. Via phone with Credit, Debit, or Checking Account by calling (360) 799-3007. (no fee for this service).

**If you have questions, please contact City Hall at 360.793.2231**