



# AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER



When I took office as Mayor in 2019, one of my top priorities was making our streets and neighborhoods in Sultan more safe. In this month's newsletter, I will highlight some public safety updates and work we are doing to make good on this commitment.

Ensuring public safety is the number one priority of local government. That is why almost half of our general fund budget goes toward law enforcement and courts. We recognize there are important public safety challenges we need to address and in the coming months, I will be working with our Police Chief to share more information with the community related to these challenges.

One of the biggest challenges we are currently facing is changes to state law regarding police tactics and the Blake decision affecting how we deal with drug-related crimes. In the 2021 legislative session, the State Legislature in Olympia made multiple changes to state law affecting how police do their job and interact with the public. These changes limit police officers' ability to engage in certain situations or face significant liability to their jobs and department. One way these changes will affect us in Sultan is how we engage with individuals who are struggling with mental or behavioral health challenges. If an individual is not a threat to others or themselves, our deputies cannot physically engage with them. This will have an effect on how we address individuals in our community that need intervention. While our deputies never want to use force without cause, sometimes it is necessary to get individuals to the resources they need.

Another challenge we are working through is the State Supreme Court's *Blake Decision* and the legislature's "fix" to it. In February 2021, the Supreme Court declared that the State's liability drug possession statute was unconstitutional. This led to the legislature changing the State's criminal code related to possession of controlled substances. The "fix" passed by the legislature reduces drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor charge. Further, the new law requires law enforcement to make two separate referrals to services before a misdemeanor arrest can be made.



### **\*\*CITY HALL INFORMATION\*\***

**CITY HALL IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Physical Address:** 319 Main Street #200, Sultan WA 98294  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 1199, Sultan WA 98294  
**Office Hours:** Monday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Tuesday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
**Closed daily between 12:00 pm—1:00 pm for lunch**

Phone 360.793.2231 · Fax 360.793.3344

Website: [www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sultanwashingtongovernment>

The change to police tactics and drug possession laws at the state level have forced local law enforcement to change how we interact with individuals in our community who make it less safe. Police Chief Mike Martin and I are committed to working through these challenges and finding ways to work within the new laws to address public safety issues in Sultan. I know the City Council is also committed to this work.

As we determine best practices and creative ways to hold wrongdoers accountable, we will keep the community updated.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the City of Sultan, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me 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

### **AUGUST 2021 MEETING CALENDAR**

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

AUGUST 2	Community Alliance Meeting—4:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
AUGUST 3	Planning Board—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
AUGUST 5	City Council Workshop—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
AUGUST 12	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
AUGUST 17	Community Alliance Meeting—4:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
AUGUST 17	Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website
AUGUST 26	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
SEPTEMBER 2	City Council Workshop—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
SEPTEMBER 7	Community Alliance Meeting—4:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance
SEPTEMBER 9	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm In person or Remote Attendance

### **NEED HELP WITH YOUR SULTAN UTILITY BILL?**

If you are having financial issues and need help with your utility bill, or to make payment arrangements, please contact City Hall at 360.793.2231.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

### MAIN STREET SEWER PROJECT—PHASE 2

The City is excited to announce Phase II of the Main Street Sewer Line Project is complete.

More information about the project can be found on our website at:

<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/314/Main-Street-Sewer-Line>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Nate Morgan, Public Works Director      Ben MacDicken, Operations Manager  
360.793.2262      360.793.1114  
[nate.morgan@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:nate.morgan@ci.sultan.wa.us)      [ben.macdicken@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:ben.macdicken@ci.sultan.wa.us)



### PROPOSED NEW PARK—SULTAN BASIN AREA

The City owns a 353.56-acre piece of property. The property is broken down into three sections:

1. A useable and already graded flat top portion approximately 4.96 acres that is zoned public and institutional;
2. A strip of land along State Route 2 zoned commercial development;
3. And a middle portion that is heavily encumbered by critical areas.

Currently the City is exploring the options for turning this land into a park. We have three proposed concepts.

The City values your input and will be conducting surveys in the near future so continue to watch for more information and visit the city's website at:

<https://ci.sultan.wa.us/346/Proposed-New-Park---Sultan-Basin-Area>

## BUILDING CORNER

### ONLINE PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TRACKING

The City of Sultan is excited to announce we have implemented our new permit tracking software as of June 14, 2021. This means the following tools are available to the public through the City's website:

1. Apply for permits and track their progress through the review process.
2. Request and manage inspections on building and land use projects.
3. Review issued permits and check properties for permit applications.
4. Submit code enforcement or public service requests.

If you have any questions about the new services we offer or need any further assistance, feel free to reach out to Andy Galuska, Community Development Director for more information. He can be reached by email at [andy.galuska@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:andy.galuska@ci.sultan.wa.us) or by phone by calling 360.793.2231.



### TRIM AND MOW YOUR YARD AND PLANTS

**SUMMER IS HERE AND WITH THE WARM WEATHER  
AND LACK OF RAIN, THINGS ARE DRY!**

Due to the dry weather, the City would like to ask you to please prune your overgrown shrubs/bushes and keep your lawn mowed. When mowing lawns, please do it in the early morning or evening and not in the heat of the day. Make sure to clean up all your clippings to keep them off City Streets.

Thank you for helping your City stay safe!

★★★★★  
SATURDAY  
AUG. 7

★★★★★  
YOUTH DIVISIONS  
BOYS & GIRLS  
GRADES 2-12

PRESENTED BY:  
SULTAN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
CITY OF SULTAN  
SULTAN YOUTH BASKETBALL



★★★★★  
EARLY BIRD  
\$40 BEFORE  
7.15  
★★★★★  
ADULT DIVISIONS  
MENS & WOMENS  
UNDER 30 & OVER 30

REGISTER NOW :



**COME AND  
JOIN US!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE  
ACTIVITIES,**

**GO TO THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT:**

[www.ci.sultan.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=145](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=145)



**Join us for Sultan's  
6th Annual National Night Out**

**Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

**5:00pm—7:00pm**

**Sultan's River Park—100 Block of Main Street**

**Food, Games and Fun**