

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



In this month's newsletter, I will be highlighting the City of Sultan's new Strategic Plan and Vision which was completed last month.

In previous newsletters, I discussed the visioning project we were undertaking as a City. This project was intended to create a plan for how the City can revitalize the downtown to attract consumers and businesses as our community changes.

To accomplish this, we conducted a community survey with over 430 responses (over 79% of respondents were Sultan residents), interviewed peer cities, and conducted focus groups with community members.

The result of these efforts is the Strategic Plan and Vision which makes recommendations and identifies projects to accomplish our goal of more economic and community activity in our downtown. These strategies will help guide the City as we invest in infrastructure and programs moving forward.

The community survey highlighted several themes that helped shape the recommendations in the Plan. The core challenges identified by community members were 1) not enough variety of businesses/restaurants, 2) the area feels uninviting, and 3) businesses/restaurants are closed when they want to go.

We also asked community members' what their vision for a future downtown looks like. The top responses were 1) Sultan has a vibrant, thriving, and active downtown, 2) Sultan's downtown is clean, safe, and up-to-date, and 3) downtown Sultan is friendly, welcoming, and inviting.

We identified three goals to help guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Vision.

Goal 1: Create a Sense of Place on Main Street

To accomplish this goal, we will be undertaking a number of initiatives to develop downtown in ways that will attract more businesses and consumers. One way to do this involves improving the aesthetics of downtown. We will be developing downtown design guidelines to develop cohesion among businesses and update business frontage. Part of this effort will also be exploring ways that the City can partner with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses to create a façade improvement program to help existing businesses improve their appearance.

We will also be exploring ways to improve walk-ability and bike-ability to and around downtown. While there is not a quick and easy fix to US-2 traffic issues, there are short term solutions that can help residents access downtown while we continue our efforts to improve the highway.

Another project we will be working on is improving lighting along and around Main Street to improve public safety and create a more inviting downtown.

Goal 2: Make Small, Visible, Immediate Investments

We know it is important that an effort like this visioning project yield meaningful results for the community. That is why we are proposing immediate investments in the 2022 budget to begin work on the projects that will have a positive impact on the community.

We are proposing the design guidelines project from Goal 1 in next year's budget to get that work underway. We will also be finding signage and other ways to make navigating downtown easier for residents and visitors.

The City will be working with the Chamber of Commerce to find new, fun ways to activate the downtown space including pop-up events like the Car Show in August. More of these small gatherings provide opportunities for the community to engage with fellow community members and businesses in a meaningful way.

We will also be focusing on communication as part of the Plan to make sure residents are more informed about what is going on in the City and what actions we are taking to improve the downtown experience.

Goal 3: Invest Now for the Long Term

We know attracting long term investments from new businesses requires us to be prepared for what happens in the future. This goal outlines efforts we can undertake to plan for a future we want to see.

We will be looking at a variety of long-term planning efforts including flooding solutions, financing options for investments, development code

updates, and purchasing property for future development. These are important steps in economic development that we will be exploring in the next couple of years.

The City Council and I are excited to have this Strategic Plan and Vision done and ready for implementation. I would like to thank all of the community members who participated in this effort and provided valuable input into decision making in our community.

If you would like to learn more about the Plan and read the details of the proposals, you can visit the City's website at:

<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/347/Sultan-Visioning-Project>

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

russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us or 360.454.4145. Take care.

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita
Mayor, City of Sultan



OCTOBER 2021 MEETING CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER 5	Planning Board—7:00 pm remote attendance only
OCTOBER 7	City Council Workshop—7:00 pm remote attendance only
OCTOBER 11	Community Alliance Meeting—9:00 am In person or remote attendance
OCTOBER 14	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm remote attendance only
OCTOBER 19	Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website
OCTOBER 28	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm remote attendance only
OCTOBER 25	Community Alliance Meeting—9:00 am In person or remote attendance
NOVEMBER 2	Planning Board—7:00 pm In person or remote attendance
NOVEMBER 4	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm In person or remote attendance
NOVEMBER 8	Community Alliance Meeting—9:00 am In person or remote attendance

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR FLOODING?

Sultan is a beautiful place to live, but there are risks associated with that beauty.

We are located at the confluence of the Skykomish and Sultan Rivers with additional scenic waterways nearby including Wagley Creek and Winter's Creek. Close proximity to rivers offer a host of benefits but this close proximity also creates risks and challenges and we must be ever-vigilant to minimize risk and damage in the case of a flood.

As winter rains and spring mountain runoff fill our waterways, it is important to be prepared for a flood event. Online tools such as the National Weather Service <https://www.weather.gov> and City of Sultan <https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/> websites can help you monitor river levels and quickly access information during a flood. Over the last year, the City has worked to share more information on our City website and Facebook page to enhance public safety and strengthen our emergency response and communication.

If you are new to the area, the threat of flooding might seem a bit overwhelming. Flooding from the Sultan River impacts downtown Sultan businesses and residences and the residential areas north and west of downtown. Waters can rise quickly! Never underestimate the power of water! Six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult, 12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car, and 18—24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks!

Are you prepared for a flood?



<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/244/Emergency-Preparedness>

What can residents do to help?

Always keep your catch basins clear of branches and other leafy debris. Be proactive and get it done before the rainy season hits.

**NEVER DUMP DEBRIS IN CREEKS AND/OR DITCHES!
IT IS ILLEGAL AND CAN CAUSE FLOODING!**

For the most recent flood newsletter, please go to the City's website at:

<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/5291/2020-Winter-Flood-Bulletin---City-of-Sultan---CRS---122020-PDF?bidId=>

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

Facebook:

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

BUILDING CORNER

WET WEATHER IS ON ITS WAY!

Are your gutters ready for the upcoming season? Rain gutters, in good working fashion, can stop dry rot, mossing over, flooding in yards and so many more issues that can cost you money, time and hard feelings with neighbors. There are provisions in our codes that discuss water sheeting into other yards, hence the collection of storm water and its conveyance.



This is a big deal in the State of Washington! Rain waters will always seek the lowest point it can reach. This is why new construction in plats may require yard drains, French drains or other means to capture rain water and remove it to an approved location. Some folks will even catch their rain water and use it to water indoor gardens, house plants, even do their laundry with it.

If you have questions about building codes, please contact the Building Department at 360.793.2231.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



UTILITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

The current moratorium on utility shutoffs expired on September 30, 2021. The City of Sultan is aware many residents have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In an effort to help those utility customers with a past due balance, the City offered customers the opportunity to set up an extended payment plan agreement in order to avoid shut off. If you have not done so already, please contact the City of Sultan at 360.793.1129 to request a payment plan agreement.

In addition to offering extended payment plans, the City of Sultan has granted funds to the Volunteers of America here in Sultan to be used for assisting eligible Sultan utility customers. Please contact VOA at 360.793.2400 to set up an appointment to apply for assistance.