



ELMA'S Community Connection

Your Hook-Up on Information From City Hall

March 2024

From the Desk of Mayor Josh Collette • mayor@cityofelma.com • (360) 470-3984

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

This year will bring some exciting and much needed improvements to our community! During 2024, you can expect to see repairs to lighting at the 10th Street Park, improvements to safety on Main Street, and the launch of Elma's downtown rejuvenation. These projects are part of the strategic vision and planning the city and elected officials have been working on for the past couple of years. Having a well-planned vision for our city that identifies and prioritizes our needs is a critical part of securing grant funding for the financial burdens of meeting those needs and growing our city well!

In addition to our strategic planning, advocacy work is an integral part of meeting our goals for improvements and growth. The city is committed to relationship building with our local community partners, granting agencies, and our state and federal legislators as we know it will take strong partnerships to meet our goals.

A special note of recognition is for city council members Mike Cooper and Bethany Whipple-Boling, who have worked extra diligently building relationships with our local legislators. As a result, many of our legislators have a better understanding of the issues Elma faces and how their decisions affect our community. Mike and Bethany are busy during the legislative session, but advocacy is a year-round process. This past July, they invited Representative Tharinger for a visit to Elma. They used this time to thank the representative for his past help and present him with our vision and future opportunities for his assistance. Mike and Bethany plan to host more visits like this in the future. We thank them for their efforts and commitment to our community!



WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATES INCREASE 7.5%

How does the city use the fees collected for water and sewer services? The fees collected are used to cover the cost of operating the utilities. These expenses include the cost of staff, equipment, and materials for maintenance and repairs of water and sewer infrastructure. The fees also help with the future costs of replacing outdated infrastructure as well as the construction of new water supply and sewer utilities.

(continued on the back page)

Our Mission

The City of Elma proudly promotes a healthy, safe, and vibrant community. We are dedicated to delivering excellent services and engaging in meaningful public participation.

Our Vision

Elma is a caring community where everyone belongs. People live, work, play, worship, and raise their families here. It is a place of economic opportunity, with an independent spirit and unique identity.

Our Core Values

- Maintaining and enhancing economic viability.
- Offering excellent professional services to all customers.
- Establishing, improving, and maintaining City infrastructure.
- Creating an environmentally sustainable community.
- Maintaining the small-town, rural character of Elma.
- Improving and expanding recreational services and facilities.

Many citizens may have noticed the message on their last utility bill alerting them the rates would increase by 7.5% for 2024. The council did not arrive at this decision lightly. It is impossible not to see the impact of inflation when we go to the gas pump and grocery store, or when we purchase any goods and services.

Generally, the city council approves a fee increase at two and a half percent each year to keep up with inflation. However, the inflation rate was eight percent in 2022 and four percent in 2023. The city's intent was to find a balance between keeping up with inflation while limiting the burden on rate payers.

We appreciate your understanding, and please reach out to us if you have any concerns.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

We would like to introduce you to the newest addition to our police department, Officer Bryson Crisp. Officer Crisp is an Elma native whose roots run deep. Officer Crisp graduated high school in 2016; he was a strong student athlete and an active part of Elma High School. After high school, Officer Crisp attended South Puget Sound Community College's Fire and Emergency Service Technology program. Upon completion of his training, Officer Crisp worked as a firefighter/ EMT for the McLane/ Black Lake Fire Department and an EMT for American Medical Response. He also volunteered as a District 5 firefighter. Prior to joining the police department, Officer Crisp worked at Ascensus Specialties as a chemical operator.

In his spare time, Officer Crisp enjoys spending his time outdoors hunting, fishing, hiking and dirt bike riding. He is an avid sports enthusiast and loves playing basketball and watching his favorite teams compete.

We are super proud and thankful to have Officer Crisp serve our city and wish him a safe and successful career!



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Elma City Hall at 6:00 PM
202 W. Main St. Elma, WA

The agenda and link to ZOOM meeting
are available on the city's website
www.cityofelma.com

- * Monday, March 4, 2024
- * Monday, March 18, 2024
- * Monday, March 25, 2024
(Council Work Session)
- * Monday, April 1, 2024
- * Monday, April 15, 2024
- * Monday, April 22, 2024
(Council Work Session)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday March 30, 2024

VFW Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt
Grays Harbor Fairgrounds at 12 pm/noon

March 30, 2024—April 7, 2024

Spring Break (Elma School District)

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Enhance Elma Community Clean Up Event
(Elma Chamber of Commerce)
Elma High School Parking Lot at 9 am

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Prescription Drug Take Back Event (Elevate East County)
Elma Visitor Station
- Drop box located at Elma Pharmacy
- Free medication lock boxes will be available at the
Elma Visitor Station while supplies last

Friday, May 3, 2024

Citizen of the Year Banquet
(Elma Chamber of Commerce)
Elma Eagles Club at 6 pm

