



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

## CITY SECURES FUNDING FOR BUILDING REMODEL



We are excited to announce that the City of Elma will receive \$1,288,000 to renovate a building that will serve as the new headquarters for the police department and municipal court. Securing funding for this project will not only enhance the operational capabilities of our police department but also better align with the evolving needs and demands of our growing city.

The generous funding, made possible through Rural Development's Community Facilities program, shows their commitment to investing in the well-being of rural communities like ours. With their assistance, we can now move forward with plans to transform this building to meet the needs of the community for years to come. Stay tuned for further updates as the project progresses.

## CITY REDESIGNING WEBSITE FOR ENHANCED USER EXPERIENCE!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you—our city is undergoing a digital transformation with the updating of its website! In an era where a city's online presence is often its first impression, the forthcoming redesign is not just about giving the website a cosmetic upgrade; it is about reimagining it as a dynamic hub of information, services, and engagement with our community.

The decision to revamp the city's website stems from a recognition of the evolving needs and expectations of residents in an increasingly digital world. The old website, while functional, was beginning to show signs of age, with outdated design elements and navigation that could be confusing for users. The redesigned website

*(Continue reading on next 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.

features a clean and minimalist design, with clear navigation menus and intuitive search functionality to help users quickly locate information they seek. It will prioritize simplicity and user-friendliness, ensuring that finding information and accessing services is a breeze for everyone, regardless of technical ability.

In addition to improving usability, the redesign also prioritizes transparency and community engagement. The new website promises to improve access to information and keep residents informed about city initiatives and developments. In today's mobile-driven world, access to information on the go is essential. That is why the new website will be fully responsive and optimized for mobile devices, so you can access it anytime, anywhere, from any device. Furthermore, the inclusion of feedback forms and online surveys allows residents to provide input and voice their concerns directly to city officials, fostering a sense of community participation and collaboration.

Some of the more exciting highlights of the redesigned website include:

- The new website will give staff the ability to make updates, improving responsiveness and timeliness of delivering valuable information to the public.
- The search function is integrated with the city's municipal code improving access to reliable and accurate information.
- Ability to track the progress of building permits through an online portal.
- Ability to report and track the progress of potential code violations through an online portal.
- Citizens can subscribe to receive alerts through text messaging notifying them of imminent situations affecting public safety or potential restrictions on travel; such as street closures, power outages, and inclement weather conditions.

The redesign of the city's website represents a significant step forward in modernizing its digital presence and better serving the needs of its diverse population. By prioritizing accessibility, functionality, and engagement, the new website promises to be a valuable tool for residents, businesses, and visitors alike, reflecting the city's commitment to innovation and excellence in public service. As the redesigned website goes live, the city is confident that it will serve as a valuable resource for residents and visitors alike, facilitating greater civic engagement and enhancing quality of life. However, the process of improving the city's digital infrastructure does not end here. Ongoing monitoring and feedback mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that the website continues to evolve in response to changing needs and emerging technologies.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Friday May 10, 2024**

Summit Pacific Medical Foundation  
Golf Tournament  
*Salish Cliffs Golf Club at 8 AM*

### **Saturday June 8, 2024**

Graduation (Elma School District)  
*Grays Harbor Fairgrounds—doors open at 11 AM*

### **May 27, 2024**

VFW Memorial Day Ceremony  
Odd Fellows Cemetery 11 AM

### **June 28, 2024—June 30, 2024**

City Wide Garage Sale  
Elma Chamber of Commerce

## MAIN STREET MAKEOVER: A THRILLING TRANSFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In the heart of our small town lies Main Street—it is the backbone of our town, a gathering place where locals come together to shop, dine, and connect. Main Street plays a pivotal role in shaping our town's identity and fostering a sense of belonging for all who call it home. Now, with excitement buzzing in the air, we are thrilled to announce that Main Street is about to undergo a stunning makeover through infrastructure improvements. This endeavor promises not only to enhance the aesthetic appeal of our town but also to improve public safety and elevate the overall experience for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

In small towns like ours, a sense of community is cherished, public safety is more than just a priority—it is a fundamental value. By investing in infrastructure improvements, our town demonstrates its commitment to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. You may have noticed the dynamic crosswalk installed on Main Street near Veteran Memorial Park. The city partnered with Summit Pacific Medical Center to cover the cost of this project to improve safety for pedestrians traveling between the campus of Learning to Grow and the hospital. The city also received a grant from the state to install more of these safety devices in several Main Street locations during the summer. The locations will span from the downtown business corridor at 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the school zone for the middle school and high school at 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Later this year, the decorative light poles will be retrofitted for LED lighting and additional light poles will be installed to improve lighting at street intersections.



Our small town is home to a diverse array of local businesses, and the Main Street makeover aims to provide them with the support they need to thrive. The city will not only improve lighting in our downtown business corridor, efforts to promote our community will also be improved. The banners on the street light poles will be revived to catch the attention and draw visitors from Eagles Landing to downtown Elma. The city will also expand its use of painted parking stalls on Main Street, and some side streets, to better manage the availability of parking spaces near our local businesses. The city will address aging landscaping along Main Street. Many of the trees have become severely damaged, grown too large for their space, or are causing damage to infrastructure. The existing trees will be cut down and replaced with new trees better suited for the spaces.

These enhancements will not only beautify our town but also create a more inviting and pedestrian-friendly environment for all.



### **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

Agenda and the link to ZOOM meeting  
are available on the city's website  
[www.cityofelma.com](http://www.cityofelma.com)

- \* Monday, May 6, 2024
- \* Monday, May 20, 2024
- \* Tuesday, May 28, 2024  
(Council Work Session)
- \* Monday, June 3, 2024
- \* Monday, June 17, 2024
- \* Monday, June 24, 2024  
(Council Work Session)

## ENHANCING PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Elma is reaffirming its dedication to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors through a renewed commitment to improving our parks and green spaces.

As the heart of our community, parks play a vital role in promoting health, wellness, recreation, and social connectivity. Recognizing the importance of these public assets, the city is launching a comprehensive initiative aimed at revitalizing and possibly expanding of our parks system to better meet the needs of our community.

Through the Recreation Conservation Office, The City received two grants to address needs related to parks and recreation. The first grant will cover the cost of developing our long range plan for our parks and recreation and open spaces. The other grant will be used for deferred maintenance on lighting at the 10th Street Park.

***Please contact City Hall if you are interested in joining the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or providing input for the parks and recreation plan.***



**EMPLOYEE  
SPOTLIGHT**



We are thrilled to introduce Sean Carlstrom as the city's new building official. With a wealth of experience in project management and building code compliance, Sean brings a fresh perspective and a commitment to excellence in building safety and sustainability.

As our city continues to grow and evolve, ensuring the safety and integrity of our buildings and infrastructure is of the utmost importance. As long as Sean is at the helm, we are confident in our ability to uphold the highest standards of construction quality and compliance with building codes and regulations.

Sean comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in construction, having previously served as a general contractor and building official in Mason County. Sean was named Code Official of the Year by the Washington Association of Building Officials in 2022.

At the core of Sean's approach is a dedication to transparency, accountability, and customer service. He is committed to fostering open communication with residents and businesses, addressing concerns in a timely and equitable manner, and building strong partnerships to enhance the quality of life in our city.

Sean is also committed to investing in the future of his profession. Currently, there is a shortage of qualified professionals in the field. A young man will be shadowing Sean in order to learn the profession, and the city will receive additional help at little to no cost.

As we embark on this new chapter with Sean leading the way, we are excited about the opportunities ahead to create a safer, more resilient built environment for generations to come. Please join us in welcoming Sean to our community and supporting his efforts to ensure that our city remains a vibrant and thriving place to live.