

City Newsletter Winter 2024



It's a New Year!

What a month to start 2024: not only were we hit with quite the arctic blast, but we also saw new housing codes go into effect on New Years Day, and the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority was awarded a \$200M federal INFRA grant to construct the new bridge!

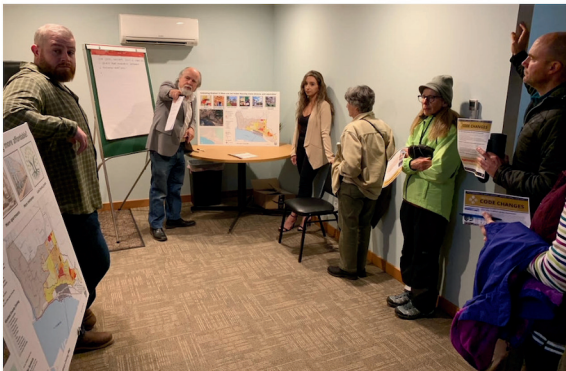
This quarterly newsletter is meant to share insight, provide helpful tips, and highlight current activities and future initiatives. But it's always evolving! Don't hesitate to reach out if you have feedback on these updates, or if we can be of assistance in any other way.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.
Your City Hall Leadership and Staff

Mayor Marla
Troy Rayburn
Stephanie Post
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In This Edition:

- Park Improvements
- Theft Prevention
- Wildfire Preparedness
- New Permitting Process
- Housing Updates
- & More!



Clockwise from the top:
Volunteers deck Dock Grade for the holidays; our Public Works team brings good tidings to downtown; sleds and skis were the way to get around the first weekend of our January winter storm; Council chambers closed out 2023 with a fresh coat of paint; Mayor Keethler and KC Commr Anderson met with Sen. Murray last November in their roles as HRWSBA Commissioners to advocate for bridge funding; staff presents proposed code changes to a packed Open House in December.



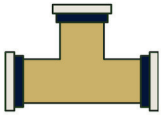
Public Works Updates

We're taking significant steps to improve our city's infrastructure.



Winter Travel

We kicked off 2024 with quite the winter storm! Keeping the streets safe for the public during winter weather is a top priority. You can help by making sure your sidewalks are also kept clear for pedestrians, and that trash cans and other obstructions in the street right of way are removed ahead of and during significant snow events. You can find our snow removal policy at bit.ly/WS-Snow-Removal



Reminder: Oil and Sewer Pipes Don't Mix!

Spending more time indoors during the winter months brings lots of baking and cooking. The oils and grease that cooking produce can cause sewer backups. Please remember to throw butter, cooking oil, meat fats, and all other forms of grease into the trash, not down the drain. Thank you!



Capital Construction Projects

We're excited about the infrastructure and recreation projects planned for this year. Some of the exciting projects coming your way include:

- Rheingarten Park new playground structure and splash pad
- Tohomish Street sidewalk
- Spring Street improvements
- Design and Engineering for the White Salmon Bluffs Trail

Protect & Serve

Preventing Theft: A Message from Your Police Department

The White Salmon Police Department tends to see a slight increase in thefts this time of year. Our police department recommends these safety tips:

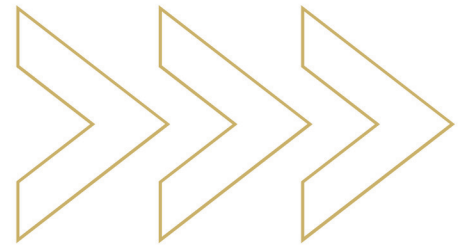
- Lock your car and park in well-lit areas where possible
- Never leave the keys in your vehicle
- Avoid hiding spare keys in obvious places like mailboxes or under doormats
- Keep porches and other entrances to both your home and garage well lit

Wildfire Preparedness Updates

- Voters approved the formation of a West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority last November. The new entity will be formally enacted in September 2024, and begin levying funds in 2025. Initial work to support administration of the new authority will begin later this winter.
- Work on the White Salmon Fuel Break is underway! Flagging was completed at the end of January and the Request for Qualifications and Quotations should be released for bid by the end of February; work could begin on the eastern and southern units by early April. This work is part of a \$5.5M federal grant to fund Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, West Klickitat County Wildfire Defense Project to build 35-miles of strategic fuel breaks around seven high-risk rural communities, including White Salmon.
- The Underwood Conservation District and Fire District 3 will be holding a Wildfire Presentation at Station 31 in Husum on Wednesday February 21, 2024, at 6:30pm to provide information about work by Underwood Conservation District, DNR, and CRGNSA to improve wildfire resiliency.

NEW!

Say Hello to SmartGov



The new platform will streamline and expedite building and planning permitting services for White Salmon.

We're thrilled to share the integration of SmartGov, an electronic platform designed to enhance and simplify our building and planning permitting services. What does this mean for you? With SmartGov, our goal is to make your experience with us smoother, faster, and more user-friendly. Here's what you can look forward to:

Feature	What it means
Effortless Permitting	Say goodbye to cumbersome paperwork and long processing times. SmartGov's intuitive interface makes applying for permits and tracking their progress a breeze.
Transparent Planning	Stay in the loop with real-time updates on zoning regulations, planning projects, and public hearings. SmartGov brings transparency to the forefront.
User-Friendly Inspections	Schedule and manage inspections with ease. SmartGov ensures that the inspection process aligns with your timeline.
Instant Access to Information	Need to check on a permit, zoning code, or project status? SmartGov provides 24/7 access to crucial information from the convenience of your home or office.

This integration reflects our commitment to embracing innovative solutions like SmartGov to foster a more efficient, transparent, and resident-centric approach to building and planning. As we roll out this integration, we value your feedback.

For more information or to explore the new features, visit ci-whitesalmon-wa.smartgovcommunity.com.

Every Litter Bit Helps!

Thank you to White Salmon Business Association, with support from the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, for the additional trash cans installed around downtown this fall! Funds raised from the 2023 Spring Wine Walk were used for the additional receptacles to improve our downtown core.

Housing Updates

1 December marked significant activity in the realm of housing, with the City Council enacting an initial round of changes to WSMC Chapter 17-Zoning, which went into effect January 1, 2024.

2 The City secured a \$35,000 Middle Housing Grant from the Department of Commerce. This funding supports the ongoing assistance of our housing consultant in implementing City Council's Housing Action Plan. Near-term objectives include:

- Modify the Zoning Map to better align with the 2021 Land Use Designation Map
- Changes to the review process for various planning applications
- Introduction of visual references to begin moving toward Form-Based Code
- General Development Guidelines

3 **Needed Repairs Underway at Rhine Village**

The long-anticipated sale of Rhine Village to new owner Cascade Columbia Housing Corporation was finalized in December. The previous owner, West Klickitat Community Housing, and CCHC have been collaborating for the past few years with the goal of turning Rhine Village back into a vibrant community asset and neighborhood development. A state & federally funded \$6M+ renovation is underway and will require residents to relocate for a 2-3 week period in early Spring. If you have a licensed short-term rental in or near White Salmon and would be willing to host a family, please contact City Hall. Let's help our neighbors stay nearby while their homes are under construction!

To stay in-the-know about these updates and other housing news, sign up for our housing newsletter at whitesalmonwa.gov/housing

Climate First Focus

In 2021, the city adopted a climate resolution, the primary goal of which is to identify municipal greenhouse emissions and make a conscious effort to reduce net emissions 45% by 2030.

In 2023 the city launched an EV car share program for residents and installation of two electrical vehicle charging stations. The city also secured funding for Phase IIA of the mainline water project. Replacing this critical portion of the city's primary water delivery into town will reduce water loss and promote sustained reliability of water sources.

In addition, City Hall implemented an e-signature policy and DocuSign Software, and launched SmartGov Permitting Software for electronic permitting, all with the objective of reducing paper use and increasing efficiencies.

Contact

Thank you for taking the time to read our updates!
Please get in touch with questions or concerns on these topics or other city matters:

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