

Monthly Newsletter

City of Somerset

April 2023

Important Information:

City Hall will be closed Friday April 7th and Monday April 10th in observance of Easter.

All of us here at City Hall would like to wish all of our residents a blessed Easter.

Upcoming events:

Commission meetings: 4/6 & 4/20

P&Z Meetings- 4/12 and 4/25

Easter- 4/9



A Word From the Mayor

I have been reflecting on this past year, as it is approaching the two year mark as Mayor of Summerset. A year ago, I posted a list of projects that I was committed to work on or collaborate with others and I am proud of the progress that has been made this past year. I am tremendously thankful for the staff and officials that have helped make all of these projects possible. Here is an update of some of the projects that I have been working on this past year.

1. Waste Water Expansion Project - I knew this would be the first priority for the city and we were approved nearly a year ago by DANR. The bidding process had a few surprises, as the bids came in at a higher than expected amount. We were able to negotiate some cost savings and budget for a few of the items in the next two years. The Ground Breaking ceremony took place in February of 2023. Construction is expected to be completed December 2023 or January 2024, with a possibility of a supply chain delay with the electronic components to be able to go online.

2. Rewriting of TIF 1 and TIF 2 to assist with the service fee for residents - About a year ago, I started asking questions to see if there were options to lower the service fee that would be added to the utility bill for Summerset residents. I found that if the city rewrote TIF 1 and 2, we could potentially lower the \$24.15 monthly service fee per household to \$6 to \$8 per month. It was a pleasant, and very happy, surprise to find that we could eliminate the monthly service fee after the final number collections and rewriting of the TIF's occurred. In addition, the additional revenue of \$2,000,000 will allow the city to pay the debt of the original plant and the two expansion projects within the next 8 to 12 years, instead of the 30 year notes.

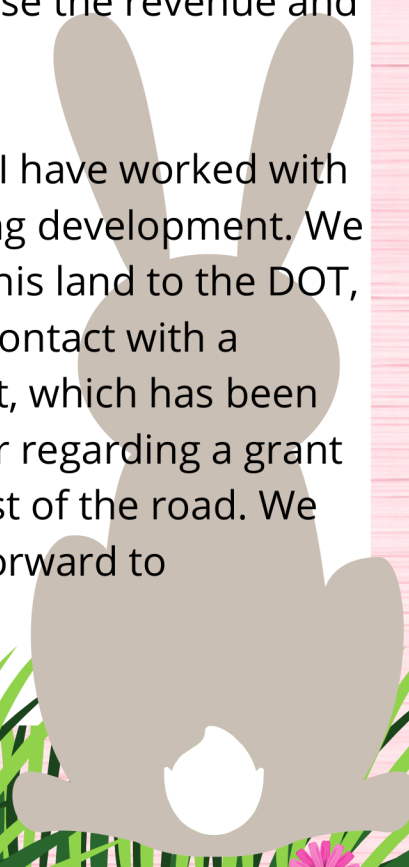


A Word From the Mayor

3. The City Administrator, Lisa Schieffer, and I both knew that an update was needed to the employee handbook and a mission statement was needed, which started a many month long project. Lisa worked diligently to ensure we were compliant with state statute and in line with other government entities. I worked on updating the Commission handbook, implementing leave slips to ensure accountability, and provided input in the mission statement. The Commission passed the final draft and the city now has an updated Employee Handbook and Commission Handbook.

4. Park Expansion Project - Last year, I presented an idea to the Commission for a park project expansion of a small ice cream, coffee, and sandwich shop with a small splashpad to draw people to the park. All Commissioners were initially in favor of moving forward and we pursued a design, allowing public comment at Summerfest, public meetings, and with follow up conversations. Unfortunately, people were verbally attacked for sharing their opinions and I made the decision to not move forward with the project to discontinue the division amongst some of the residents. I have since pursued different avenues to increase the revenue and sales taxes within the city, with more information to come.

5. 2nd Exit for Sun Valley Estates - The City Administrator and I have worked with two developers in Sun Valley for another exit out of the housing development. We have learned that one of the developers has sold a portion of his land to the DOT, in turn limiting the access that direction. The city has been in contact with a residential developer to look for an alternative road placement, which has been identified. We have also provided information to the developer regarding a grant opportunity for \$2,000,000 for infrastructure, including the cost of the road. We have a good relationship with the developer and are looking forward to continuing to work towards the same goal.

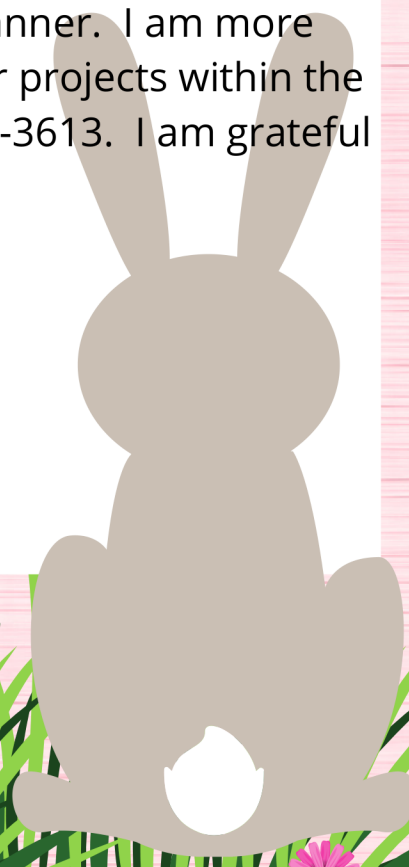


A Word From the Mayor

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6. Steps and Grades for compensation - During the last budget season, I initiated consistency in the annual pay increase for city staff. The Commission adopted the change proposed with the agreement that we work towards steps and grades with a completion date of June 2023.

This a sample of some of the projects that I have been working on this past year and will continue to do so to move Summerset in a positive manner. I am more than happy to have further discussion regarding these or other projects within the city. I can be reached at mtorno@summerset.us and (605) 718-3613. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Summerset.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Summerset Parks and Recreation Board



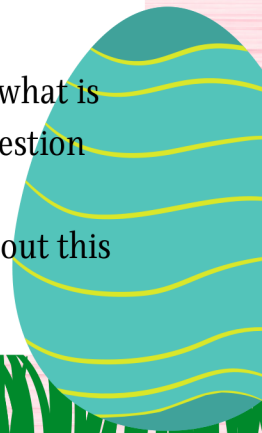
Hi I'm Kelly McIntosh, your Summerset Parks and Recreation Chairwoman

(Help with this one, am I chairperson, chairman or chairwoman or president) I don't know

My family and I have been residents of Summerset. We have lived in Summerset since 2008 and live in Sun Valley Estates. I owned and operated Sun Valley Daycare until 2020, and now I am a residential Sales Associate for Midco. I have had a lot of community involvement throughout the City of Summerset, and have always wanted what is best for this community and for my neighbors. I was president of the original Summerset Park Board for many years and along with other park board members, we worked together on many projects throughout the city. We worked closely with the city's public works department on many different projects for the City of Summerset.

I enjoy spending time with my family, my husband, Darin and our 2 children Russell, and Cara. We love spending time in the outdoors and when we are not running to the next volleyball game, track meet or kart race, you will find us camping, fishing, and hunting together.

I am grateful for the opportunity again to help serve my community and I will keep what is best for this community my number one goal. Please reach out if you ever have a question or concerns. This Summerset Parks Board will always have an open door for anyone interested in what we are working on for our neighbors, friends, and family throughout this amazing community we have!



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Summerset Parks and Recreation Board



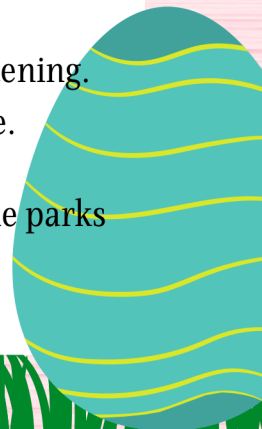
Hi, I'm Yvonne Carter and an happy to introduce myself as a member of the Summerset Parks and Recreation Board. Originally from Rhode Island, my husband and I raised our children in North Carolina. Throughout thee years I've served whichever community I called home including church choirs, on the Borad of Directors for a local credit union and as a secretary for a Pier Association at a lake where we had a home. We enjoyed riding motorcycles and finding the best places to eat.

After my retirement from the post office, my husband and I moved to Central Florida where we lived until his passing in 2018.

I have a son in Kentucky and one in Texas. My daughter has lived in the Black Hills for most of her adult life and I have had many opportunities to visit. I moved to Summerset in the fall of 2018 to spend time with my granddaughters before they're grown and off on their own adventures.

When I'm not traveling, I spend my days cross-stitching, quilting, reading and gardening. If you look close this summer you might see sunflowers peaking over my back fence.

I look forward to hearing all the wonderful ideas this community has to improve the parks for all of us.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

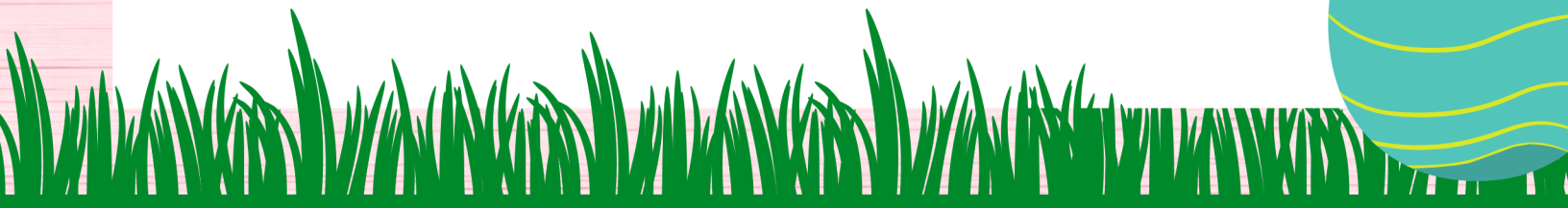
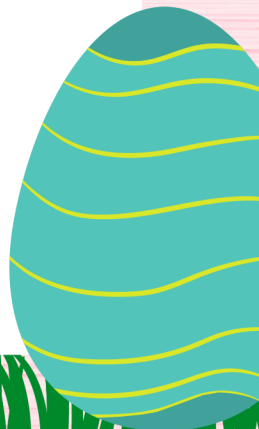
Summerset Parks and Recreation Board



My name is Tom Zimmerman and I am proud to be a volunteer on the Parks and Recreation Board for the city of Summerset. As a resident of this community for 15 years, I have 2 daughters that have grown up using the city parks. I have come to appreciate the open space and recreational opportunities that our parks provide.

I believe that parks are more than just open spaces; they are important community assets that help promote healthy living, social interaction, and environmental stewardship. As a member of the board, I am committed to ensuring that our parks continue to be safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.

I am excited to be part of a team that is dedicated to enhancing and preserving our city's park facilities. I look forward to working with all of you to make our community an even better place to live and play. Thank you for your support.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

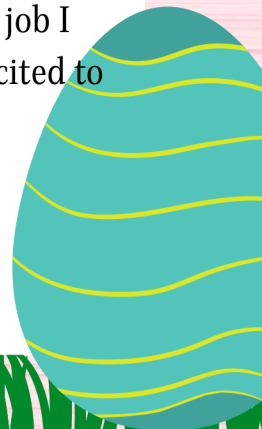
Summerset Parks and Recreation Board



I am Sid Reade. I have a broad based experience level, working 40 years throughout several career areas in the U.S. Air Force, Federal Service, Local Government and Private Industry. I have led and managed large organizations and small teams. While in the U.S. Air Force, I served throughout the United States and overseas in both Europe and Asia. My connection to South Dakota and the Rapid City area goes back many years. My father was in the Air Force and stationed at Ellsworth AFB for 12 years where I did all my grade schooling. This area is home for me.

My wife and I moved into Summerset approximately four years ago, building on one of the last lots in the City at that time. My wife and I like the Black Hills and small-town atmosphere in Summerset. Since returning I have become active in the City and volunteered for the Park and Recreation board.

Throughout my career I have participated on boards and committees responsible for planning and prioritizing recreation projects and opportunities. In addition, at one job I was responsible for upkeep of a corporate owned park and recreation area. I am excited to serve on the Summerset Park and Recreation board and hope to help identify new recreation projects and opportunities in the city.



Summerset Public Works

Summerset Public works, in cooperation with USGS is installing a weather station located at monitoring well SV1 (located in the greenspace west of the Bus Stop on Sun Valley Drive). When this equipment is installed our residents will be able to look at real time weather data and groundwater in the well. This data will be available for everyone to view. With the flooding issues that Sun Valley had had in the past, The well information will be valuable as to know when to anticipate basement flooding potential.

Currently these wells that have been drilled have been measured manually. This equipment will allow the data to be collected remotely, and allow real time information coming from the station. The link to view the data will be added to the City's Webpage. In addition there will be a QR code on site to scan and view the data. We are excited and looking forward to the completion of this project. The installation, weather permitting, should be completed by the end of April.

Streets

Hopefully warm weather and sunshine are just around the corner! In the meantime, please refrain from depositing snow in the street. In addition, removal of snow from sidewalks is within 24 hours after the last snowfall. Lawns will appreciate the free moisture. We are hoping that there are not too many of these types of days left until next winter.

Sanitation

We are seeing non recyclable materials being placed in the recycling bins . Things such as drywall and Styrofoam are non recyclable. When they are placed there, and not in the trash, the landfill rejects that container as a whole for trash. We would like to prevent that as recycling is a no cost service provided. In addition, if your residential can is overflowing contact us for a second can to help contain the refuse. In addition you can notify public works for certain bulk items to be removed.



Yard Waste Containers



City of Summerset will once again be setting out the yard waste receptacles.

As a reminder- please no plastic or tires, no construction lumber or landscaping timbers.

Approved items include lawn clippings and tree branches trimmed to fit the container.



RECYCLING

Please DO NOT place yard waste in our recycle container. This is intended for recyclable material only. We are not able to recycle the material inside the container if it is contaminated with unapproved material.

Thank you,
Public Works Department



RECYCLING

Acceptable Items To Place In Recycling Cart:

ALUMINUM:

Aluminum Bottles (beer)
Beverage Cans (beer, pop, etc.)
Hairspray Cans
Shaving Cream Cans
Spray Starch Cans

GLASS:

Beverage Bottles (beer, waters, wine, etc.)
Food Jars (baby food, mayonnaise, pickles, etc.)

PLASTIC:

Plastic #1, #2, #5, and #7 only - Look for recycle triangle and number on the bottom.
Beverage Containers (milk, soda, water, etc.)
Detergent Containers
Food Containers (ketchup, cottage cheese, etc.)
Hair Care Bottles (shampoo, etc.)

STEEL:

Coffee Cans
Empty Aerosol Cans
Empty Paint Cans
Food Cans (soup, tuna, vegetable, etc.)



RECYCLING

Please DO NOT Place in Recycling Cart:

- Aluminum Foil
- Automobile Oil
- Cardboard (shiny or not)
 - Ceramics
 - Cereal Boxes
- Drinking Glasses
 - Light Bulbs
 - Mirrors
- Packing Peanuts
 - Paperboard
- Plastic Shopping Bags
- Pool Chemical Containers
 - PVC
 - Toys
- Window Glass
 - Pyrex
- Scrap Metal
- Clothes Hangers
- Pie tins, roasting pans
 - Pots
- Styrofoam
- Toasters



Planning A Spring Garden

Whether they are flower beds or vegetable crops, the best gardens start with a comprehensive plan.

Gardens consist of more than just plants you purchase from a nursery or grow from seeds. You must also consider:

- Soil condition and texture
- Nutrient and fertilizer needs
- Weed and fungal control measures
- Mulch
- Garden design using edging, raised beds, containers, or berms
- Irrigation
- Weather conditions and USDA growing zones

Why is planning your spring planting so critical?

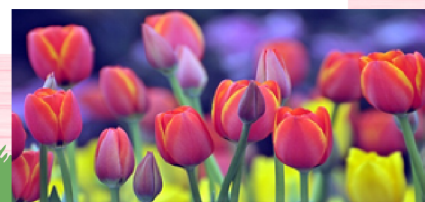
Because as soon as it's safe to plant, you'll be ready for action, and it will result in flowers blooming and crops maturing faster.

By figuring out now what you need for your spring planting, you can pull out your calendar and plug in dates to begin various tasks.

Making a list of which plants you desire, along with which ones you want to start indoors, will help you create a planting schedule.

Walk around your garden and take notes of what amendments you need to add to the soil to increase organic content or nutrients or fix pH levels. You can purchase these over the next weeks or months, so they're ready to till into the soil immediately after it thaws.

Winter downtime is also a great time to consider revamping your planters or gardens by adding in edging, building and filling raised beds.



Planning A Spring Garden

Spring Garden Planting Schedules

Many different gardening websites and agricultural cooperatives offer planting guides, planting schedules, or planting calendars for users to reference if they're unsure when it's safe to put plants in the ground.

Winter downtime is also a great time to consider revamping your planters or gardens by adding in edging, building and filling raised beds.

Spacing out garden purchases, chores, and plantings on your calendar will help you avoid getting overwhelmed trying to do it all once when the weather warms.

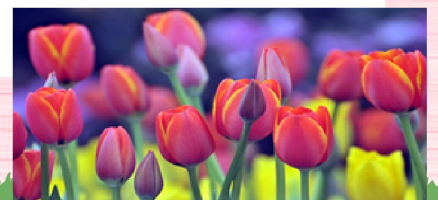
Finding Your Planting Zone

Locating your exact planting zone is easier than ever. Many major plant companies, USDA websites, or gardening almanacs offer maps that break down your state or region into zones.

There are two benefits to knowing your planting zone. The first is knowing which plants can survive the climate, so you aren't wasting money on those that will die during winter and need replacement come spring.

Planting guides take much of the timing guesswork out of spring garden preparation, so you know what work needs to happen each week once the ground thaws.

The schedules are also very helpful in plotting out your garden sections.



Planning A Spring Garden

Risk Of Spring Frost

The excitement of planting your spring garden can quickly dissipate if your region gets an unexpected late frost that damages or kills tender young seedlings.

This fear keeps many gardeners from planting on the first date a planting schedule suggests. However, if you're ready for a frost, you can overcome this obstacle and enjoy larger and heartier plants sooner than those that wait an extra week or two.

The best solution to combat a late frost after you put plants in the ground is to have a supply of stakes or garden hoops and plant freeze-protection material ready for action.

Credit -Backyard Digs/Justin Michael





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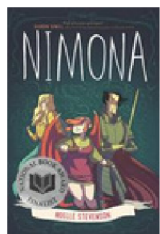
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www.piedmontlibrary.net
Hours: Tues 9-7, Weds-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-1

“When in doubt go to the library.” – J.K. Rowling

Teen Book Club

Next meeting is April 22nd at 11:00 am. This month's book is *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson.



TEEN NIGHT

Teens 13+
Thursday, April 13th
At 5:00 pm
Join us for a fun game night and pizza!

Teen nights are every second Thursday at 5:00 pm.

CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE



Preschool Story Time!

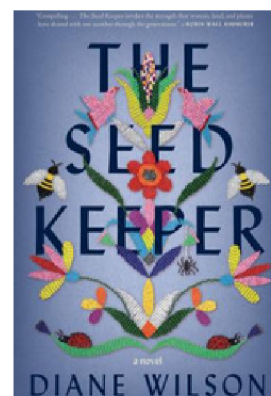
Join us every Thursday at 10 AM for a fun, preschool story time in the Library!



Bluestockings Book Club

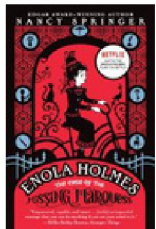
Title: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson
Where: @ The Library
When: Friday, April 21st at 10:00 AM

Who: Anyone Who Wants to Join
How: Simply stop by the library to borrow a copy of the book.



Middle School Book Club

Join us every Friday at 4:00 pm as we read *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess*. We will watch the movie when we finish the book.



Genealogy Club!

Join the genealogy club every 2nd Monday at 10 AM.

Elementary Book Club

Join us every Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm as we read from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

We will watch the movie when we finish the book.



Pokemon Club

We will be taking the month off for April. Join us again on May 13th at 10:00 AM.

