

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 182

CITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

Council sharpens focus on traffic congestion

TRAFFIC POLICY IS NOW AGENDA ITEM # 1 AT EVERY MEETING

Noting that they hear about it more than any other topic, the City Council voted on July 18 to make congestion – and the traffic model that aims to measure it – the number one agenda item at all Council meetings going forward.

Although the new emphasis may require staff to set aside a portion of its previously identified work program, City Manager Lyman Howard said its always a City Council's prerogative to make adjustments.

"Our Councilmembers know that the staff already has a lot on its plate, but we will make whatever course corrections are necessary," Howard said. "And we'll provide the Council with the best available information every step of the way as we make the adjustment."

Some members of the City

See CONGESTION, pg. 3



Bob Keller (left) receives the gavel from Don Gerend, the outgoing mayor. Keller will serve as mayor until the end of 2017.

Mayor Bob Keller takes the gavel

GEREND WILL REMAIN ON THE COUNCIL, BUT, CITING A BUSY SCHEDULE, ASKED COLLEAGUES TO REPLACE HIM AS MAYOR

After many years as a volunteer, planning commissioner, and City Council member, Bob Keller will wrap up his official duties by wielding the mayor's gavel through the end of this year.

His ascent to the top position came after Don Gerend asked to be relieved of the mayor's duties, citing a busy personal and professional schedule. Both

Keller and Gerend will be leaving the Council at the end of 2017.

"Bob has been such a positive presence for so long, and given so much to his community over the years," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "I think his selection by fellow Councilmembers shows how much they respect what he's done for Sammamish."

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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CONGESTION

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POP-UP STUDIOS

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Summers in Sammamish are the best!

Since incorporation, Sammamish has always held fast to a fundamental vision – that we are a family-friendly city!

So, as I assume the role of mayor for the next few months, it strikes me that it would be appropriate for my first “mayor’s message” to reinforce that vision, and highlight the season Sammamish families enjoy the most: Summer!



*Bob Keller
Mayor*

As we move forward into August – my favorite month – I hope you’ll join me in exploring, experiencing, and savoring all the summer pleasures offered by our 14 parks, our beautiful open spaces, and our many trails. Taking it a step further, here are a few of my favorite options:

- **Experience nature and the environment with a hike!**

At **Evans Creek Preserve**, begin your hike on the forested plateau rim at the upper parking lot. The initial portion of the trail is steep, but well worth the extra effort.

What makes it unique, is the up close and direct view of the canopy as you descend towards the trees below. It’s almost like a zip line through the forest.

And when you get to the bottom, you can fully enjoy the 179 acres of wildflowers, meadows, wetlands and wildlife, all easily navigated by 3.5 miles of pedestrian-only loop trails.

If you want to skip the steep part of this experience, of course, just use the lower parking lot.

Soaring Eagle and Hazel Wolf

Preserve provide similar experiences, although you may occasionally have to share the trail with a mountain biker.

Our latest addition, **Big Rock Park**, is another great option, right in the heart of the city, easily accessible from the street, and featuring a natural-crafted play area and youth zip line.

Klahanie Park is another natural area. It features the protected Queen’s Bog, one of roughly 50 bogs located in Washington state.

- **Are aquatic activities and lakes more your style?**

Let’s start with **Pine Lake Park**, a beautiful spot with a beach and a great dock. This is suntan central in Sammamish for people of all ages.

If you want to be next to the big lake, the East Lake Sammamish Trail is great for walking, biking and bald eagle sightings.

In the northern section, this flat, mostly shaded trail passes by our **Sammamish Landing Park**, which offers a swimming area, docks and small hidden beaches for picnics. Oh, and the view of Mt Rainier from the docks at sunset is breathtaking!

A Sunday option is available at the **Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center**. On that day, they offer free swimming to non-members. Register early; it’s very popular. Make sure you experience the slide; it’s just that good!

And let’s don’t forget **Beaver Lake Park** – with its beach, picnic area, dog park, horse trails, and after summer passes, of course, the Rotary Club’s “Nightmare at Beaver Lake” during the Halloween season.

- **Is family entertainment important to you?**

Here are two options you can

consider:

1) Go to the **Farmers’ Market** at City Hall Plaza on Wednesdays, between 4 and 8 p.m., buy dinner, enjoy the Seattle skyline and consider a walk through Sammamish Commons. From the skate park in front of City Hall to the playground and community gardens in the Lower Commons, it’s a summer delight!

2) Go to a “**Concert in the Park**” on Thursday evenings. This musical tradition at Pine Lake Park draws families with strollers, chairs, and picnic blankets.

The music is free, but make sure to help local service clubs raise money by patronizing their concession booths. Be forewarned, though, the person selling you the burger or the ice cream cone may be a Councilmember – or even yours truly.

Among other reasons, Sammamish summers are great because our recreational areas have expanded dramatically since incorporation.

In 1999, only 44 acres were dedicated to parks. Today, the city has more than 700 acres, and we’re working hard to make our parks facilities and programs even better in the years ahead.

To that end, please help out by sharing your priorities and values with the PRO Plan update team. To read all about the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update, and offer your thoughts, just enter goo.gl/GuQHQ6 into your browser.

But don’t spend too much time on your computer. As great as they are, remember that Sammamish summers don’t last forever!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Advanced Life Support comes to Sammamish

Thanks to advocacy from city elected officials, Eastside Fire & Rescue Chief Jeff Clark and others, the city now has an “advanced life support” unit located at Fire Station 83.

From this launching point, Medic 21 is well positioned to serve both Sammamish and Issaquah.

“The King County Emergency Services folks heard us loud and clear,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “We’re very pleased with the result.”

With heavy regional traffic in the southern part of Sammamish and the northern part of Issaquah, the unit’s ability to save lives, without reaching

a hospital right away, will make a real difference.

Medic 21’s six-month evaluation period in Sammamish is the product of a collaboration between Eastside Fire & Rescue, the Bellevue Fire Department, and King County Emergency Medical Services.



Medic 21 in Sammamish at Fire Station 83



City Manager Lyman Howard (left), Paramedic Mike Cruz, Mayor Bob Keller, Dep. Mayor Christie Malchow, and Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama take a look.

CONGESTION, cont. from pg. 1

Council expressed concern at the July 18 meeting that the city’s traffic model – a complex, continually updated computer tool – was not properly capturing the real-life experience Sammamish drivers have to deal with every day.

“We are currently working on the transportation element of our comprehensive plan update,” Howard said. “The Council obviously

wants to take a close look at how we’re doing things now, and how we might change our approach, before we submit the plan for approval.”



Cities are required by the state’s Growth Management Act (GMA) to plan for appropriate roads and other infrastructure as their populations

increase. Traffic models and other tools are used to gauge whether cities are in compliance with the GMA’s requirements.

“It’s painfully complicated and inevitably confusing,” Howard said. “So I understand why there’s a desire for more clarity.”

Best “Fourth on the Plateau” ever!

The reviews are in, and the 2017 Independence Day celebration at Sammamish Commons has been deemed the “best ever!”

Falling on a clear Tuesday evening, this year’s “Fourth on the Plateau” featured fireworks, fun for the kids, plenty of food, and lots of live music.

“Our parks, maintenance and street crews did a terrific job,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “And our volunteers, as usual, were invaluable.”

Most importantly, the community turned out in force, with some estimating that this was the best-attended city event ever.

“We started this event in 2007 to celebrate the Fourth of July and help our new city build a sense of community,” Howard said. “It’s great to see that our residents have really embraced the opportunity over time, and made this a very special yearly tradition.”





Pop-Up Studios to gather input for Transportation Master Plan

A four-day series of “Pop-Up Studios” will move around Sammamish this month.

The goal: To seek perspective from the community by setting up shop where residents have already gathered.

The topic: The city’s Transportation Master Plan (TMP), a look ahead at the city’s vision for transportation over the next 20-30 years.

The studios, which will pop up in several locations on Aug. 16, 17,

18 and 19, will consist of an 8’ x 8’ tent – or a van – informational displays, and work space. Members of the city’s consultant team will also be there to listen,

answer questions and gather public input.

“Instead of asking people to come to a meeting at City Hall, the Pop-Ups let us go to where the people already are,” Deputy Public Works Director Cheryl Paston said.

For more information on the TMP, enter goo.gl/AdsGHC in your browser. And please note the “Pop-Up” times and locations in the blue box.

Two additional pop-up studio sequences will be held between now and next summer.

Wednesday, August 16
4-8 pm @ Farmers’ Market: City Hall Plaza

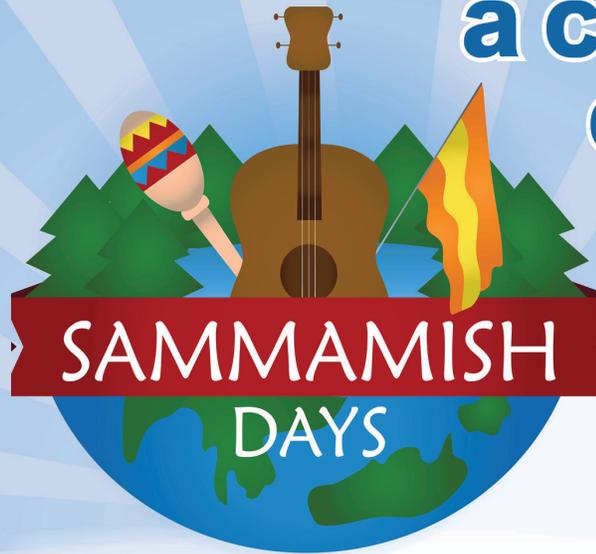
Thursday, August 17
11 a.m.- 4 p.m. @ Shopping Center: Sammamish Highlands Safeway
5:30-8:30 pm @ Concert in the Park: Pine Lake Park

Friday, August 18
11 a.m.- 6 p.m. @ Shopping Center: Klahanie Shopping Center

Saturday, August 19
9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. @ Sammamish Days: City Hall Plaza
3-5 p.m. @ Shopping Center: Pine Lake QFC

sammamish Days

a CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY & CULTURE



SATURDAY **19th** | **Commons Plaza**
AUGUST 801 228TH AVE SE

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES | **10 am**
BOUNCE TOYS * FACE PAINTERS | *until*
FOOD TRUCKS * OVER 20 VENDORS | **2 PM**

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[@sammamishparks](#)



- UPCOMING EVENTS -

KIDSFIRST!

Tuesdays 1-2p

Aug 15 Recess Monkey

kid rock music
Klahanie Park

Aug 22 The Not-Its!

dance party
East Sammamish Park

Aug 29 Duo Finelli

comedy duo
Klahanie Park

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Thursdays 6:30-8p

Pine Lake Park

Aug 17 Fabulous Roof Shakers

rythmn and blues

Aug 24 Sammamish Symphony

classical

Aug 31 Yogoman Burning Bush

jamaican

CELEBRATE sammamish

August 19

Sammamish Commons Park

Sammamish Days

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Commons Plaza

Sammamish Nights

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Commons Plaza

Tickets at [SammamishChamber.org](#)

CITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

Wednesday, Aug. 16

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 19

-Sammamish Walks, Pine Lake Park,
Nature Journaling, 10 a.m. - Noon

Wednesday, Aug. 23

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 26

-Kid Friendly Volunteer Event
Sammamish Landing, 10 a.m. - Noon

Wednesday, Aug. 30

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 31

-Keiko Hara Art Exhibit begins
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 5

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Joint Mtg, Parks and Planning
Commissions, 5 p.m.
-Parks Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

-City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

-Human Services Task Force Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16

-Children's Walk at Big Rock Park
10 a.m. - Noon

Tuesday, Sept. 19

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

-Finance Committee Mtg, 9:30 a.m.
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 21

-Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 23

-Volunteer at Evans Creek Preserve,
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 25

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings and events at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

Stormwater ponds

It's important to do your part as a resident to keep stormwater ponds in great shape. They capture runoff from roofs, streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces, and then reduce the volume of pollution reaching our lakes, rivers and wetlands.

How do you keep your local stormwater pond happy and healthy? Here are some tips:

- Limit your use of fertilizers
- Pick up animal waste
- Don't dump lawn clippings nearby
- Preserve trees and shrubs
- Don't pour chemicals near the pond
- Sweep your driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off
- Capture roof runoff with raingardens or rain barrels.
- Plant a natural buffer or filter strip, using native plants rather than sod.

Starting in September

Passports by Appointment Only at City Hall

To eliminate lines and wait times, the Sammamish Passport Acceptance Agency will provide 15 minute appointments for one application, or 30 minute appointments for two or more applications, beginning in September at City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

Appointments will be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. To make an appointment, go to www.sammamish.us and select the "How do I?" tab.

Skyline turf project wraps up this month

The turf replacement project at the Skyline High School Community Field, which began in June, is reaching completion in August.

Among other things, the project is removing and replacing the multi-purpose, synthetic-turf field surface, installing a new pad system, repairing fencing, and installing new soccer goals.

Done in conjunction with the Issaquah School District, the project received a \$50,000 grant from King County for replacement of the turf.

The Community Field accommodates baseball, softball, football, lacrosse and soccer for both adult and youth sports leagues, with students and community residents sharing use of the facility.

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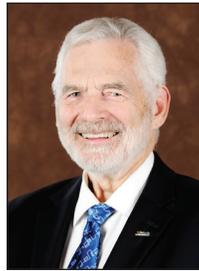
SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Bob Keller
 Mayor



Christie Malchow
 Deputy Mayor



Don Gerend
 Councilmember



Tom Hornish
 Councilmember



Kathy Huckabay
 Councilmember



Tom Odell
 Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
 Councilmember

Bollywood Dance/Garba



Music, food, fun! At Pine Lake Covenant Church, 1715 228th Ave. S.E.
 All are welcome at this free event on Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.

For more information on the event,
 contact Colleen Rupke at crupke@sammamish.us.

Sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Lyman Howard	City Manager
Jessi Bon	Deputy City Manager
Aaron Antin	Finance Director
Angela Feser	Parks & Rec Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Steve Leniszewski	Public Works Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Michelle Bennett	Police Chief
Jeff Clark	Fire Chief

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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