

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 186

CITY NEWSLETTER

DEC '17-JAN '18

'I Cannot Overstate the Significance of Their Service'

FOUR DEPARTING COUNCILMEMBERS SHAPED THE CITY'S PAST AND FUTURE



Mayor Bob Keller



Don Gerend



Kathleen Huckabay



Tom Odell

For the first time in the history of Sammamish, Don Gerend's name plaque will be removed from the City Council chamber dias. At the end of 2017, he will join retiring council members Kathleen Huckabay—also a founding city leader with a four-year break in service—as well as Bob Keller and Tom Odell in a well deserved, legacy-laden departure.

"This is a foursome that has fundamentally shaped our city," said City Manager Lyman Howard. "I cannot overstate the significance of their leadership or my appreciation for their service. Don and Kathy—they have been here from the very beginning. Alongside Tom and Bob, they've made strategic decisions and guided resources—creating CWU Sammamish, preserving

green space, investing in community policing, expanding parks—to make Sammamish one of the safest and most family friendly cities in the nation."

Please join together in a chorus of thanks whenever you spot these longtime neighbors around town, and perhaps you can help them think of ways to fill their soon-to-be-free Tuesday evenings? In the meantime, here's a run-down of what each has planned as they step down from the council ...

Of the many projects during his four years of service, Mayor **Bob Keller** has particularly enjoyed leading the Eastside Fire & Rescue Board's process

See *SERVICE*, page 6

New Year, New City Leadership

WELCOME, INCOMING COUNCIL MEMBERS

On Jan. 2, 2018, four new leaders will take the City Council oath of office and usher Sammamish into the future. Here's a look at each of their journeys to elected office:

Karen Moran's first memory of public service was cleaning a local park as a Girl Scout. She settled in Sammamish because of the lakes and natural beauty. Due to her passion for property rights, Moran felt this was a critical time to run for council. She likes fishing, boating, reading, concerts at Pine Lake Park, and quilting.

Encouraged by the four open seats on council, **Jason Ritchie**, a small business owner and father of two sons, felt it was time to join the conversation. Ritchie grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, before he and his wife settled in Washington. Sammamish felt like the perfect fit with the mountains, a strong community, and never-ending green. Ritchie enjoys hanging out at home, hiking, and cinnamon rolls at the Sammamish Café.

Chris Ross is a long-time Eastside resident. At the encouragement of community leaders, he ran for council and plans to put his financial background to work for the good of Sammamish.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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PAPERLESS MEETINGS

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STORM PREPARATION

Story on page 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

'It has been my pleasure to serve this community!'

MAYOR KELLER REFLECTS ON THE PAST FOUR YEARS



Mayor Bob Keller

Best wishes in 2018! My time as Mayor and Councilmember for this beautiful city is coming to an end along with the terms of councilmembers Don Gerend, Kathleen Huckabay and Tom Odell.

All of us are grateful for having had the honor of serving the people of Sammamish as members of the City Council. Thank you for giving us the opportunity.

I also want to extend best wishes to the newly elected councilmembers: Jason Ritchie, Karen Moran, Chris Ross and Pam Stuart. I am confident city government will be in good hands.

To all the councilmembers with whom I have served, it has been an honor. You have my respect, appreciation, and friendship. I also want to acknowledge the sacrifice—not necessarily of the councilmembers who willingly step forward and serve—but of their families. Campaigning for election and then serving on the city council requires a substantial amount of time away from home. I want the spouses, children, parents and friends of councilmembers to know that the additional burdens placed on them by a councilmember's service are acknowledged and very much appreciated. Thank you especially to my wife Shannon, all the retiring council spouses, Susan Gerend, Ruth Odell, Warren Huckabay, and continuing, Sherie Valderrama, Suzanne Hornish, and Tom Malchow. Thank you for enduring the late meetings, missed dinners and long days.

A special thank you as well to our

dedicated staff team. Our council is quick to add to their heavy workload and they don't let us down. It has been an honor working with all of you and I thank you for your service to the Sammamish community.

I love Sammamish. I am awed by how far we have come since incorporation in 1999 and optimistic about where we are headed.

Yes, as a community we have issues—including traffic congestion. The city council recognizes this and places the highest priority on dealing with traffic-related issues. Every regular city council meeting begins with an update on traffic. It's the first item on the agenda, right after the flag salute.

But we also have much to be grateful for. Sammamish is an exceptionally family-oriented town. We have one of the highest percentage of households with children in the state! We're increasingly diverse—by ethnicity, religion and country of origin. It gives us a rich culture. We live in a wonderful environment with more than 800 acres of wetlands, 30 miles of streams and 12 parks providing habitat for wildlife, fish and birds—and an oasis for people. Our children can now—literally—walk to school all the way from

pre-K through college! Who would have imagined that 20 years ago?

The thing that I find most remarkable about the people of Sammamish is their willingness to contribute to their community, to volunteer for a cause, to lend a hand to a neighbor.

So, my parting message is to encourage Sammamish residents to continue and expand upon the tradition of community volunteerism. It's what builds and keeps a community strong. There are so many needs and opportunities.

On the city web site, under the Community Involvement tab, you'll find links to a multitude of organizations focused on every community challenge from homelessness to conservation. You can also volunteer to serve on city committees, task forces and commissions that address important policy issues including traffic, development and parks. You will be richly rewarded for your service.

As I step away from city hall, I won't be going far. I look forward to being a part of this great community and watching Sammamish progress. *Thank you!*

Bob Keller



City of Sammamish Councilmembers (from top left, clockwise): Tom Odell, Don Gerend, City Manager Lyman Howard, Ramiro Valderrama, Tom Hornish, Mayor Bob Keller, Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, and Kathleen Huckabay

5 Ways to Prepare for Storm Season



City crews do their best to keep more than 5,000 public storm drains working properly, but they need your help! Here are five things you can do to help Sammamish and yourself be storm ready:

1. Help keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris. Drains near street corners, low areas and parking lots need special attention.
2. Be safe – don't walk or drive into flooded areas.
3. Place leaves and other yard waste in your yard waste container or compost them in your garden. Don't blow leaves into the street.
4. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clean so water can flow smoothly.
5. Use landscape barriers, such as rocks, to prevent bark, dirt and other landscape materials from washing into the streets and clogging drains.

If you're in an area where flooding is known to occur, keep sandbags on hand. For additional tips and information please visit www.sammamish.us and search for Emergency Preparedness Resources.

Green Techniques Keep Sammamish Spaces Bug-Free

WE WON'T BE PESTERED!

The City of Sammamish has a lot of buildings, parks and other green spaces to keep bug and pest free, and prioritizing environmentally friendly ways to manage pests in city spaces is important.

Our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy relies on a combination of common-sense practices to prevent and correct pest issues. Using information about the life cycles of pests and the way they interact with the environment, the city prevents infestations while limiting our use of harmful chemicals.

Our strategy empowers the city to manage pest damage with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

Integrated Pest Management can also be used in your homes. We welcome community partners to join our efforts to reduce chemical-pesticide use and promote environmental health.

Contact Lisa Werre at lwerre@sammamish.us to find out how you can get involved.



**SAMMAMISH
IS READY
FOR SNOW!**

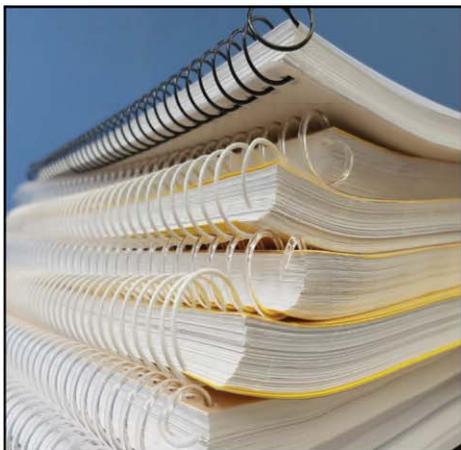
Efficient Paperless Meetings Save Time, Money, and Trees

It is an old proverb that the best time to have planted a tree was 20 years ago, but the second best time is now. The City Council uses over three reams of paper each council meeting for printed agenda items. That's a lot of trees!

To address community concerns of wasting paper and staff time, the City Clerk's Office is working to switch to an all-digital briefing packet. In addition to providing timely briefing material for councilmembers, this new system will be accessible to the public resulting in increased transparency. Not to mention an estimated 33 percent reduction in printing costs and roughly 40,000 pieces of paper saved each year!

Beginning in January, council briefing packets will be available on electronic tablets for the councilmembers. The digital version will also be available to the public and searchable on the city's website from tablets, e-readers, laptops, smartphones and more.

Questions about these changes? Contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson at 425-295-0511 or manderson@sammamish.us.



ART OF THE GOOD LIFE: An exhibit of paintings by Willow Bader

January 19 - April 20, 2018

City Hall Commons Gallery

- Willow Bader is an encaustic artist with over 20 years experience expanding the boundaries of art and paint. She makes her home in Seattle.
- Willow attended Pennsylvania Academy of Fine arts in Philadelphia. Her bold and expressive award winning work is exhibited from coast to coast.
- She celebrates life, its traditions and exuberance.



SUMMER JOBS AT PINE LAKE PARK

Thinking ahead to summer employment? Pine Lake Park needs a beach manager and junior and senior lifeguards. We will train you! Contact lhandlos@sammamish.us for more information.
<https://www.govjobstoday.com/>

Loan Assistance Available for Home Repair Needs

Do you need financial assistance for house repairs? The City of Sammamish/King County Housing Repair Program provides zero-percent interest housing-repair loans to low and moderate-income homeowners. The program also provides loans to landlords for projects to make rental units accessible for income-eligible tenants with special needs. These programs are funded by the City of Sammamish and King County.

The loans can fund a wide variety of home repairs. Health and safety repairs such as roofs, plumbing, electrical, and heat systems and septic systems are highest priority, but other repairs may also qualify. Eligibility is determined by income. A family of four can earn up to \$72,000 per year, which is 80 percent of the King County median income. Income is adjusted by family size. To apply, call King County Housing Repair Programs at 206-263-9095.



Planning for the City's Urban Forests

The city is beginning the process of creating an Urban Forest Management Plan to establish a vision for Sammamish's urban forests and develop policies and goals that will support that vision. To assist with the city's Urban Forest Management Plan, the City of Sammamish has retained the Davey Resource Group, a nationally-known natural resource consulting firm with experience with similar projects in Washington, California and Colorado.

The scope of work includes a review of the current tree-related policies and programs, an assessment of the city's canopy cover, stakeholder

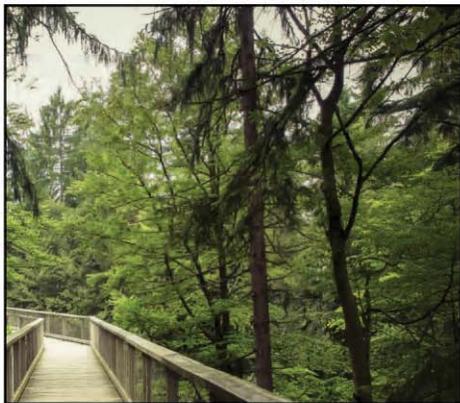
and community engagement, and the creation of online resources including an interactive StoryMap.

The final Urban Forest Management Plan and an associated Strategic Recommendations and Implementation Plan are tentatively scheduled to be adopted by the City Council in early 2019.

Multiple kick-off meetings will be held during which the city and Davey Resource Group will solicit feedback to help form the project's goals and objectives. The Planning and Parks Commissions will host the first of these meetings on February 1, and the council will host one on February 5.

An online survey, open house, and various "pop-up studios" around the city throughout 2018 are just some of the ways for community members to give direction to the project.

For more information and to sign up to receive e-mail alerts, please visit <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/community-development/current-projects/urban-forest-management-plan/>.



UPDATES TO HOUSING STRATEGY PLAN

The Department of Community Development is updating the Sammamish Housing Strategy Plan (HSP). This work plan helps the city transform policies into actions, determine priorities, and identify preferred strategies for housing. Starting in January, there will be ample opportunity for public input to further guide the HSP.

For more information on the Housing Strategy Plan, please contact Doug McIntyre at dmcintyre@sammamish.us or 425-295-0528.



WELCOME, continued from page 1

Ross grew up in Bellevue and Kirkland, relocated to Chicago for a while, then chose Sammamish when he returned to be in the perfect location with access to lakes, mountains, hiking, and a big city. Ross enjoys traveling in his spare time with his wife.

Pam Stuart ran for an open council seat to use her engineering background to help her community. She grew up



Karen Moran



Jason Ritchie



Chris Ross



Pam Stuart

in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and relocated here for a job at Microsoft. Her first memory of public service was a benefit carnival she and her sisters put on because their uncle suffered from Muscular Dystrophy. To relax, Stuart enjoys the outdoors, walking her dog, and down time with her family.

M o r a n , Ritchie, Ross, and Stuart will join current councilmembers Christie Malchow, Ramiro Valderrama, and Tom Hornish in January. They will continue their work on transportation planning, the revised concurrency policy, park planning, and subdivision code revisions.

Civic Scholarship for High School Seniors

High school seniors are invited to apply to be nominated by the City of Sammamish for a \$1,200 scholarship offered by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

AWC's Center for Quality Communities sponsors the annual scholarship program to promote municipal leadership development and civic engagement. Six total scholarships are awarded.

Sammamish will nominate one student from among the applications. Interested students must be involved with a city-government or school-leadership activity and eligible to graduate from high school, complete home school, or receive a GED in spring/summer of 2018. For full details, please go to cfqc.org

Applications are due by Friday,



Feb. 2, 2018. Questions? Contact Lynne Handlos, Recreation Coordinator, at lhandlos@sammamish.us or 425-295-0584.

SERVICE, continued from page 1

to hire a new fire chief. He is very proud of the city's collaborative leadership that's enabled projects such as the Sammamish YMCA Community and Aquatic Center, the Comprehensive Plan update, and the acquisition of the Mars Hill property that paved the way for a partnership with Central Washington University. After leaving the council, Bob and his wife, Shannon, look forward to bicycling, motorcycling, and camping.

Feeling called to action when Sammamish incorporated, **Don Gerend** eventually served 18 years on the council, including stints as mayor. He especially enjoyed his tenure as President of the Association of Washington Cities. He is proud to have witnessed "a great new city take root, sprout and blossom."

When Don leaves council, he plans to work with his wife, Susan, in residential real estate, enjoy tennis and pickle ball, do some writing, and eat plenty more of "The Cookie" at Met Market.

Kathleen Huckabay is most proud of working with former King County

Executive Ron Sims to open the East Lake Sammamish Trail. During her 14 years on council, she has served on the Finance Committee, Transit Committee, Eastside Fire & Rescue Finance and Administrative Committee, Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP), the Kokanee Working Group and several non-profit boards. She says that public service "can be the most rewarding thing that you can do but you have to keep a positive outlook." When she leaves the council, Kathleen plans to spend time reading, with friends, and traveling.

During his eight years on council, **Tom Odell** fondly recalls the two years he served as mayor and "getting to know so many people, learning so much about so many things and working with a lot of great people both inside and outside of the city." He is proud of the Sammamish YMCA Community and Aquatic Center project and securing the agreement to bring Central Washington University to Sammamish. When he leaves council, he'll spend some time recharging with his wife, Ruth, and family, reading, going for long walks, and fishing.

Plant a Tree for MLK Day

Monday, January 15, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Lower Sammamish Commons
550 222nd Place S.E.**

On this day of service, join the effort to plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive blackberry vines in Lower Commons Park. Give back to your community, learn about native plants and enhance wildlife habitat!

**Sign up at www.sammamish.us or by contacting our
Volunteer Coordinator, Elby Jones at (425) 295-0556**

JANUARY

Monday, Jan. 1

- City Hall closed for New Year's Day

Tuesday, Jan. 2

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - New City Council Sworn In.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 4

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

Tuesday, Jan. 9

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

Monday, Jan. 15

- City Hall closed for Martin Luther King Day
- Plant a Tree for Martin Luther King Day, 10:00 a.m., Lower Sammamish Commons, 550 222nd Pl. S.E.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

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

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 18

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

Monday, Jan. 22

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

FEBRUARY

Thursday, Feb. 1

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

Monday, Feb. 5

- City Council Study Session, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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



ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

2017 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*

2018 SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Tom Hornish
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow
Councilmember*



*Karen Moran
Councilmember*



*Jason Ritchie
Councilmember*



*Chris Ross
Councilmember*



*Pam Stuart
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*

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Jessi Bon	Deputy City Manager
Glenn Akramoff	Dir. of Organizational Development
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Aaron Antin	Finance Director & Assistant City Mgr
Michelle Bennett	Sammamish Police Chief
Jeff Clark	ESF&R Fire Chief
Angela Feser	Parks & Recreation Director
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney
Steve Leniszewski	Public Works Director
Karen Porterfield	Interim Admin Services Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Development Director

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**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact the Communications Department at (425) 295-5591.**