

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 180

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

## The Town Center continues its climb

SKY APARTMENTS BREAK GROUND ATOP THE PLATEAU

A giant construction crane is now in place just up the hill from Metropolitan Market on Southeast Fourth Street.

It's purpose: To carefully lift and arrange the skeletal structure of Sky Sammamish – an apartment development that broke ground on May 24.

City Manager Lyman Howard, who wielded a ceremonial shovel at the event, along with Mayor Don Gerend, said he's excited by the brisk but methodical development in the Town Center.

"The community worked hard on this vision, beginning with the Special Study Area Task Force in 2004," Howard said. "So it's gratifying to see the private sector bringing that vision to life.

"Our residents asked for a focal point for the community, a place where people could work, live, shop, go to restaurants and get together with friends. We're only at the beginning, but that mixed-use environment is taking shape at a nice pace."

*See TOWN CENTER, pg. 4*



*Councilmember Tom Odell (left) and Deputy Mayor Bob Keller discuss city finances with residents at the April 27 roundtable.*

## Armed with roundtable, survey results, Council preps for June 29 finance retreat

After calling vigorously for a "kitchen table" conversation about money, and taking a deep dive into community sentiment on the topic, City Manager Lyman Howard says the table is all set for the City Council's finance retreat on Thursday, June 29, 2-7 p.m., at City Hall. (NOTE: This is a new time.)

"By the time we sit down at the retreat, the Council will have a generous supply of public input on taxes, spend-

ing, and priorities," Howard said. "I'm anticipating a very productive, well informed discussion."

The city has been quite busy setting the foundation for this conversation:

- In late 2016, the city conducted a random, statistically valid community survey that touched on many topics, but emphasized city finances.

*See FINANCE, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**HOMELESS KITS**

*Story on page 3*

**LAND ACQUISITION**

*Story on page 5*

# They said: “Don’t forget the Little Red Fish!”

More than ten years ago, as I sat through yet another meeting about chinook salmon recovery, something special happened – a band of Sammamish residents appeared to deliver an important message: “Don’t forget the little red fish.”

The working group I was part of rarely received public comment at these down-in-the-weeds, bottom-up recovery plan meetings, so we took particular note of what they were saying.

Basically, they pointed out that although Lake Sammamish is the migratory zone for chinooks heading back to Issaquah Creek after perhaps three years in the Pacific Ocean, it also is the habitat for another species of salmon – the kokanee, affectionately known as “the little red fish.”

After speaking, they left – sort of reminds me of “having writ, moves on” – and we discussed this input from the residents.

Although technically the kokanee aren’t listed as a threatened or endangered species, the native run in Lake Sammamish was indeed on the edge of extinction.

Since improving the habitat for the kokanee, which is entirely in Lake Sammamish and the streams feeding into it, would also benefit the chinook recovery, we decided to create a special category for projects that would resonate with the community at large and inspire a spirit of environmental stewardship.

The technical teams from local municipalities, as well as Trout Unlimited,

the tribes, and the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies all got involved, and the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group was formed.

Some of the kokanee are used in a restocking program through the Issaquah Hatchery, and each year we have a celebration with the fry release into the local streams. The grade school children, as well as adults involved, enthusiastically embrace the educational programs, and the scientists are learning more about the kokanee life cycle and the factors damaging its native runs.



*Wally Pereyra and Zackuse Creek*

Which brings us full circle back to one of those concerned residents, Wally Pereyra, who finds one of those kokanee spawning creeks, Ebright Creek, running through his property.

There had been a culvert near his house which effectively blocked the kokanee from moving further upstream to significant spawning grounds closer to the headwaters of the creek. He took it largely upon himself to have the culvert replaced with a new passage, and the kokanee now enjoy the fruits of this labor, migrating far upstream into

the forest to the east of his home.

But Wally didn’t stop there; he purchased land to the north, which contained another kokanee-bearing stream, Zackuse Creek, and is working with the city to replace culverts, open new spawning grounds for the kokanee, and thereby reduce the chances that a slide or other catastrophe on one creek would cause irrecoverable damage to the native run in Lake Sammamish.

Other citizens some ten years ago had come to the city with the idea of surfacing Zackuse Creek down by Lake Sammamish, where it was in an enclosed pipe all the way from the East Lake Sammamish Trail to the lake.

With the help of the city and King Conservation District, that section of Zackuse Creek is back on the surface and will shortly benefit from efforts to eliminate the culvert barriers.

Thanks to these cooperative efforts, the game is afoot, and the vision of another fertile spawning ground for the kokanee should be a reality by next year.

To learn more about the kokanee, and efforts to save this native run of “little red fish,” just Bing or Google “Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group” and enjoy our city’s share of this urban wildlife adventure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Blundell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

## Group effort produces “homeless kits” for the needy

When Michelle Bennett became Sammamish’s police chief back in 2016, she made a point of doing a ride-along with all of her officers, gaining insight into her staff and her new community as she rolled through the city’s affluent neighborhoods.

With 27 years of police experience, nothing much surprises Bennett, but she did note something interesting during those ride-alongs: There were homeless people in Sammamish.

That observation, joined to her philosophy that police should be helpers as well as enforcers, produced an idea: Why not put together some “homeless kits” so officers would have something to offer when they encountered a needy family or individual.

“A lot of people helped out to make it happen,” Bennett said. “The Issaquah food bank gave us the bags and the food, residents pitched in with toiletries and

other donations, and Allison Gubata, the city’s community services coordinator, provided a map showing where all the human service providers in the region are located.”

Bennett also gave special credit to Sgt. Frances Carlson, Master Police Ofc. Eric Lux, and Reserve Officers Matt Seybold and Andrew Tilton for their contributions.

Police encounter the homeless in a variety of ways – through suspicious person calls, requests to check on an individual’s welfare, or by simply encountering someone digging through a dumpster. In one case, a family was found using a parks bathroom to get cleaned up.

“We’ve already handed out several of the kits and they’ve been well received,” Bennett said. “As police officers we know what our main job is, but it’s also very satisfying to help out when you encounter someone in need.”



*Ofc. Andrew Robinson puts homeless kits into his vehicle.*

### *FINANCE, cont. from pg. 1*

- On April 27, the city held a community “Roundtable on Finances,” an opportunity for residents to have face-to-face discussions with Councilmembers and city staff.
- This past May, the city inserted a 12-page “Budget in Brief” document into the city newsletter. Using easy-to-understand graphics and everyday language, the document provided a comprehensive view of the city’s 2017-2018 biennial budget.
- Also in May, the city launched its Virtual Town Hall on finances, an online public input opportunity that will remain open until June 23. To participate, just go to the city website ([www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us)).

“Since we incorporated in 1999, our City Councils have established a tradition of planning ahead and making sure we’re in great shape financially,” Howard said. “This retreat, and the de-



isions that follow, will ensure that we stay on that path.”

Residents are welcome to attend the finance retreat, which will feature a public comment period. To get up

to speed on the city’s finance picture, residents can watch Finance Director Aaron Antin’s presentation at the April 27 Roundtable (enter [goo.gl/SBn7Me](http://goo.gl/SBn7Me) into the address bar of your browser) or read through the city’s “Budget in Brief” (enter [goo.gl/rbjNpF](http://goo.gl/rbjNpF) into the address bar).

“Over the past year or two, we’ve heard many residents calling for greater road capacity to help with congestion, and more emphasis on the preservation of open space,” Howard said. “Obviously, growth and development continue to be big issues in our community.

“But are residents willing to raise more revenue to accelerate our response? That’s one of the big questions we’ll have to answer as we review all of the public input we’ve received.”

## Health and human services

On March 21, 2017, the Sammamish City Council approved a contract for a health and human services needs assessment with BERK Consulting.

The city will gather demographic, economic, social and health data through public engagement during this assessment.

This will include an opportunity for residents to weigh in via Virtual Town Hall, the city's online, public-input tool. To participate, just go to the city website at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) between June 12 and July 7.

The information you provide will be a key in determining health and human services disparities within Sammamish.

Sammamish strives to be a sustainable and healthy community where every person is important and where meeting basic human needs is a shared responsibility between individuals and the community.

## Keep lawn green, and water blue

Using too much fertilizer and other lawn care products can cause water pollution. The same rain that helps turn your lawn green also washes excess chemicals into the nearest creek, turning the water green, or worse.

To help prevent pollution, have your soil tested to determine how much fertilizer you really need. And use lawn care products as instructed on the product labels. Less is always more when it comes to water quality.

The nutrients in fertilizer feed naturally occurring algae and can lead to massive algae blooms in lakes, particularly during the warm summer months.

Suggestions:

- Have your soil tested.
- Follow the instructions that come with the fertilizer.
- Avoid leaving fertilizer on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways where it's most likely to be washed into a storm drain. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces onto the lawn or into the garden.

### *TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1*

Sky Sammamish, a MainStreet Property Group project, is expected to open for occupancy in late 2018, about the same time improvements to Southeast Fourth Street are finishing up.

In addition to 159 rental units, the six-story structure will also feature 13,000 square feet of retail space, and provide easy pedestrian

access to Metropolitan Market, a medical pavillion and the other retail and commercial spaces that make up Sammamish Village.

"It's only one sliver of Town Center, but this is a place where you could live, work,

shop, go to a medical appointment and have fun – all without ever getting in your car," Howard said.

Other residential units are also going up nearby in the Town Center. Sammamish Townhomes, at 524 228th Ave. S.E., will feature 75 residences, including 13 live-work units.

And Plateau 120, at the intersection of Southeast First Street and 228th Ave



*Sky Sammamish*

Southeast, will put 92 apartment units above 14,515 square feet of ground-floor office space.

Another phase of development may be on the horizon. Although they haven't submitted any application materials yet, a group called STCA has assembled (through outright ownership or contract) approximately 60 acres of land in the Town Center.

For more information about the Town Center, go to [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) and click through "government" and "Town Center."



*Doug Exworthy, Kelly Price, Mayor Don Gerend, City Manager Lyman Howard, Jonathan Manheim and Eric Campbell break ground for Sky Sammamish on May 24.*

## Public Meeting #3 on land acquisition strategy

JUNE 14 OPEN HOUSE AT CITY HALL WILL SHARE SELECTION CRITERIA

A determined effort by the city to gather public input on a “land acquisition strategy” is still going strong.

After multiple public, City Council, and Parks and Rec Commission meetings, a statistically valid community survey, a focus group meeting, and a Virtual Town Hall on the topic, the city is now holding “Public Meeting #3” for all interested stakeholders on Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall.

This open house will share a framework for “selection criteria” for different types of land acquisition. The ultimate goal is to develop a strategy to proactively acquire land to serve public needs, preserve natural resources, and protect the community’s tree canopy, among other things.

A suggestion: Enjoy the Farmers Market beginning at 4 p.m. and then head into the open house! And don’t forget, overflow parking is available at Mary Queen of Peace Church.

For more information on the land acquisition initiative, go to [www.sammamish.us/parks-recreation/studies](http://www.sammamish.us/parks-recreation/studies).



*The city’s Beaver Lake Preserve*

## Community weighs in on the future of parks

The city of Sammamish parks & recreation department began the update of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan by listening to the community in a number of different ways.

This included conducting a series of stakeholder group sessions with organized interested groups, holding a public meeting, and asking for input through “Virtual Town Hall,” the city’s online public input tool.

These opportunities provided Sammamish residents with a number of ways to tell the city what’s important to them about parks, recreation, and open space, and will help the city develop a PRO Plan that reflects the needs and priorities of the community.

Since the PRO Plan was last adopted in 2012, the city has ex-

perienced rapid growth and annexation. The update will ensure that the city is keeping pace with growth and reflecting the community’s evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programs.

The parks & recreation depart-

ment plans to hold additional public meetings in September and November, so it’s not too late for residents to get involved.

The Virtual Town Hall on this topic will also remain open until June 14. To participate, just go to the city’s website ([www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us)).

“We’ve already learned a lot about what the community values, and look forward to hearing more,” said Parks Director Angie Feser. “It’s essential during this early part of the planning process to understand what’s important so we can address those priorities in the plan.”

More information about the PRO Plan and ways to get involved can be found on the PRO Plan webpage: [www.sammamish.us/proplan](http://www.sammamish.us/proplan).



Presented by



# FOURTH *on the* PLATEAU

**Tues, July 4**  
**6-10:30p**  
**Fireworks 10p**

**Food Truck Rodeo in Sammamish**  
**Community & Aquatic Center parking lot**

## Upper Commons

**801 228th Ave SE**

### Live Music

The Every Leaf Band 6-8 pm  
Sway 8-10 pm

### Skate Park

Small Playground

Limited Seating

Food Sales

## Lower Commons

**550 222nd Pl SE**

### Kids Area

Bouncy Toys 6-9:30 pm  
\$5 Unlimited Access

Playground

Spray Park

Preferred Seating

Food Sales

## Parking in off-site lots along 228th Ave

Sites nearest to City Hall may charge \$5 per car



@SammamishParks

SAMMAMISH



ORTHODONTICS

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**Reporter**

www.issaquahreporter.com

**Sammamish**  
Parks and Recreation  
www.sammamish.us  
425-295-0585

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Plateau Water

**RHONDA NEWTON D.D.S.**  
— FAMILY DENTISTRY —

On the Plateau



**Microsoft**

# CITY CALENDAR

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Thursdays 6:30-8p  
Pine Lake Park

- July 13 **Funaddicts**  
50s hits to today
- July 20 **Chance McKinney**  
Country
- July 27 **The Infinity Project**  
music of Journey

### KIDSFIRST!

Tuesdays 1-2p

- July 11 **Leapin' Louie**  
Cowboy comedy  
at East Sammamish Park
- July 18 **Nate Jester**  
Master of Illusions  
at Klahanie Park
- July 25 **Alex Zerbe**  
Juggler and magician  
on Commons Plaza

### SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Saturdays 7-8:45p  
Klahanie Park

- July 8 **Pericles**  
July 22 **Much Ado About Nothing**

**@SammamishEvents**

## Notary Services:

As of June 1,  
the city will no longer  
offer comprehensive  
notary services.

The city's services  
will be limited to  
city-related documents  
such as permits and  
easements.

## JUNE

*Tuesday, June 13*

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

*Wednesday, June 14*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, June 15*

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

*Wednesday, June 21*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Monday, June 26*

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

*Tuesday, June 27*

-City Council Special Meeting,  
5:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, June 28*

-Farmers Market,  
4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, June 29*

-City Council Financial Retreat,  
City Hall,  
(NEW TIME: 2-7 p.m.)

## JULY

*Tuesday, July 4*

-Independence Day, City Offices closed

*Wednesday, July 5*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
-Parks & Rec Commission Mtg,  
6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, July 6*

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

*Saturday, July 8*

-Shakespeare, Klahanie Park,  
7 p.m.,

*Monday, July 10*

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

*Tuesday, July 11*

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.  
-City Council Special Mtg, 4 p.m.

*Wednesday, July 12*

-Human Services Task Force Mtg,  
1:30 p.m.

*Thursday, July 13*

-Concert at Pine Lake Park,  
6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, July 15*

-Shakespeare in the Park, 7 p.m.

*Tuesday, July 18*

-KidsFirst!, 1 p.m.  
-City Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, July 19*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, July 20*

-Planning Commission Mtg,  
6:30 p.m.  
-Concert at Pine Lake Park,  
6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, July 22*

-Shakespeare, Klahanie Park, 7 p.m.

*Monday, July 24*

-Arts Commission, 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, July 25*

-KidsFirst!, 1 p.m.

*Wednesday, July 26*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, July 27*

-Concert at Pine Lake Park, 6:30 p.m.

### PLEASE NOTE:

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.

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**SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL**



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Bob Keller  
Deputy Mayor*



*Tom Hornish  
Councilmember*



*Kathy Huckabay  
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow  
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell  
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama  
Councilmember*



**Volunteer to help out  
with the  
Fourth on the Plateau!**

On the day of, help with the fun:  
July 4, 6-10:30 p.m.  
at Sammamish Commons

On the day after, help with the cleanup:  
July 5, 10 a.m.-Noon  
at Sammamish Commons

To sign up as a volunteer, go to  
[www.sammamish.us/community-involvement/volunteer/](http://www.sammamish.us/community-involvement/volunteer/)



**CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES**

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- 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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