

SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish



Photo of Big Rock Park South

"Thank you for calling the City of Sammamish. How can I help you?"

Tony Hudson has been welcoming visitors and callers to Sammamish City Hall since 2006. Now that City Hall is open after a two-year closure due to the COVID pandemic, we want to introduce the person behind the front desk who has been serving the residents of Sammamish for 16 years.

You are the first person people speak with and meet when calling or coming to City Hall. What's it been like to serve the City of Sammamish all these years?

I have a gig where I get paid to be useful. I have the opportunity to help callers and visitors on a variety of topics. I take pride in being as upbeat and helpful, as humanly possible, to anyone who comes into City Hall.

Sammamish is an exceptional community. The ethnic diversity within Sammamish is as broad as any city in Washington, which adds to our growth in awareness of other cultures, and adds to our humanness.

What was it like at City Hall during the pandemic, and since the re-opening?

During the pandemic, I went into the office most of the time. In fact, we had several staff, especially from our Maintenance and Operations team, who continued to come in during the pandemic due to the nature of their jobs. I liked coming in. It added some normalcy to a very unusual time in our history.



I have been looking forward to the re-opening. Face-to-face interaction is so much better than over the phone. One of my favorite responsibilities here is being a U.S. Passport Agent. It's great to be back at it after two years.

What advice do you have for Sammamish residents who have an issue? Or a query?

Next to permitting and land use inquiries, the most frequently asked questions relate to ROW (Right Of Way) maintenance, such as a street sign down, potholes, bushes hindering site-distance areas of an intersection, etc.

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"Thank you for calling the City of Sammamish. How can I help you?"

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Residents can use the MySammamish app to alert the city to any issues or concerns. Once a request is submitted, it immediately generates a work order and the submitter can follow the progress and communicate with the person assigned to the report. Residents can get more information at www.sammamish.us/how-do-i/my-sammamish.

Tony, is there anything else you'd like to share with residents?

I am truly blessed to have a job that I enjoy and that I find rewarding on so many levels. The absolute best part of working for the City is my co-workers. As a group, they are conscientious, dedicated, and helpful. There have been numerous times throughout the years when various departments needed assistance, either with staffing or resources. Without hesitation, people continually step up to chip in where needed. We (city employees) are grateful to work in such a vibrant community. And, the City's residents are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people serving them.

What has the Sammamish Youth Board been up to?

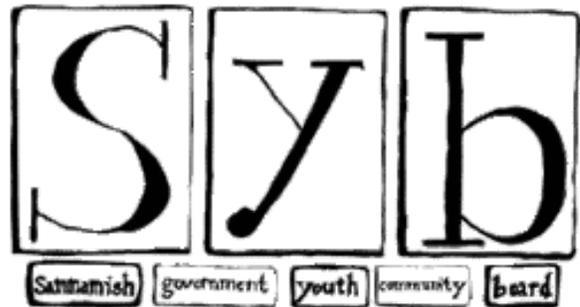
By Karan Malhotra, City Liaison for Sammamish Youth Board

Last month the Sammamish Youth Board, better known as SYB, hosted a virtual town hall. I along with fellow board member Hongning Wang thought of the idea as a way to better connect our legislative representatives to the passionate students in the area. Gaining inspiration from the town hall run last year by SYB, we wanted to host something similar to engage the students of Sammamish.

Our goal was to have an event where students in our area who were interested in public policy or wanted to voice their opinion could come to a virtual setting and meet face to face with the very people that represent them. Being civically engaged means becoming involved in policy, decision making, and also holding our own representatives accountable, and that's exactly what we wanted to encourage with the event. So, we set out planning.

Beginning in the early months of January, we relentlessly cold emailed local representatives, hoping to get a response. Unfortunately, many senators/representatives were unable to attend our town hall, but, with a bit of luck and persistence, we were able to score three legislators for the event: State Senator Manka Dhingra (45th), State Representative Roger Goodman (45th), and State Representative Tana Senn (41st).

With the attendance of the legislators along with the awesome and passionate students of Sammamish, we can happily say the town hall was a big success.



We had over 30 students attend and 10 others who sent us pre-prepared messages to ask the legislators. We had different topics that the legislators spoke about, ranging from environmental issues such as endangered orcas of the Puget Sound to concerns about ranked-choice voting. They took turns addressing each topic and offered insight about what was being done to address each issue, and what still needs to be done. Overall, we were extremely happy with the event and are excited to host future town halls in the coming years.

SYB board members continue to stay civically engaged.

SYB had a booth during Earth Day at Beaver Lake Park Lodge, where passionate members spoke about the environmental concerns of our community, and organized games, activities, and chances to win prizes! The SYB hopes to continue to foster civic engagement with events like the Town Hall and Earth Day. We are excited to see the continued engagement of the passionate students of our community as we all move towards more action and involvement within the city.

Meet Steve, a Sammamish Community Van Driver

Steve Angelo is a longtime resident of Sammamish and a rockstar Community Van volunteer. Since Steve joined Community Van in the summer of 2021, he has completed over 50 trips driving Sammamish residents to their destinations.

Steve volunteers with his church, occasionally driving a van, and after retiring from his job in marketing, he saw the Community Van program outlined in the Sammamish newsletter.

He decided to sign up since he had some extra time on his hands and has experience driving large vehicles. To Steve's surprise, because the vans are similar to a standard minivan, they were easy to drive.

What has been Steve's favorite experience with Community Van?

Steve's favorite part about the Community Van program is meeting the people on his trips, but the flexibility of the program is a close second. Since volunteers only accept trips when they are available, Steve has plenty of time to work on his house.

Steve recalls with laughter a trip driving a group of eight older gentlemen to the North Bend Mall. The group invited him to have lunch with them at a restaurant and on their way back to Sammamish, Steve suggested they visit a waterfall. Steve says he always receives a lot of thanks from the folks he drives, and it makes for a rewarding volunteering experience.

Steve didn't know about Community Van until he started volunteering, and he says Community Van is a "great service for people who need rides... it is as inexpensive as riding the bus but they [the driver] come to your house and you do not have to worry about getting home, it is a pretty neat program."

Encouraging fellow Sammamish residents to get involved and become aware of the Community Van program, Steve says "there are a lot of people on the Plateau, and I know they need to get around."

What is Community Van?

Community Van is a flexible transit option in partnership between the City of Sammamish and King County Metro. Trips can be up to 2 hours away for the cost of a regular bus fare. Community Van trips are booked in advance for up to 11 passengers.

Do you have somewhere to go?

You can request a trip in Community Van's 6- and 11-passenger vans for trips to Seattle, appointments, errands, or other outings! Learn more and request a trip: connect.sammamish.us/mobility-hub or call (425) 295-0646.



Ready and Resilient: National Public Works Week

"Ready & Resilient" is the theme for the 2022 National Public Works Week, May 15-21. This year's theme showcases the superheroes that lie within each and every public works professional. Always **READY** to serve their communities, and **RESILIENT** as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up off the ground after encountering challenges.

Sammamish's Public Works Department is a team of true "Difference Makers." They enable the City to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Get to know the areas of Public Works.

Storm and Surface Water Utility

This team addresses storm and surface water quality (pollution) and quantity (flood control) to ensure a healthy balance between streams, wetlands, fish, and people.

Traffic Engineering

This team is responsible for the maintenance and operation of signalized intersections, street lights, and over 200 miles of striping.

Transportation Planning

This team focuses on improving mobility in Sammamish through long- and short-range transportation planning and policy efforts that emphasize community engagement and strengthening partnerships at the local and regional level.

Maintenance and Operations

This team is responsible for the maintenance and repair of city streets and storm drains. They serve our community regularly by clearing snow and ice from our streets, clearing trees that fall down, managing contracts to oversee stormwater pond mowing and maintenance, and performing miscellaneous other maintenance, as needed

Development Review and Permitting

This team reviews, permits, and inspects the construction of new roads, stormwater utilities, right-of-way improvements, and erosion control associated with the development of private property.

Capital Projects, Engineering, and Construction

Whether it's a new bridge or repairing an aging street, Public Works projects make a difference every day in the lives of our community. Thank you to this dedicated team of ready and resilient superheroes.

Public Works by the Numbers



Summer Events, Activities, and Opportunities

Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department and Sammamish Arts Commission are offering a variety of activities, events, and opportunities for the community this summer. For a full list of events, visit www.sammamish.us/parks-recreation-facilities/special-events.



Fairy House Trail

Want to build a Fairy House? Now is your chance.... Sammamish Arts Commission is looking for creative and imaginative participants who want to show off their skills on the Fairy House Trail. Fairy Houses will be displayed all summer starting middle of June for everyone to see at Pine Lake Park.

Deadline to submit your fairy house is June 10.

Rig-A-Palooza

Saturday, May 21

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Sammamish Commons Plaza

Come explore vehicles while interacting with community helpers to discover how they keep our city safe, clean and FUN-ctioning. This is a free event to attend. Food trucks, bouncy houses, balloon artist, and face painting will be available for the kids.

Tiger Year's Dragon Boat Festival

Saturday, June 4

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: CWU – Sammamish

Join us for Dragon Boat Festival, featuring the diversely talented international community of Sammamish and activities centered around Asian culture and ceremonial traditions. Event highlights include a vibrant performance by the International Lion Dance Team, a martial arts demonstration, music, dance, visual arts, and a variety of interactive booths for kids.

Sammamish Community Progress Flag Mosaic - www.cherylsmithmosaics.com

Wednesday, June 1

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Sammamish Farmers Market

Kick off Pride month and join Cheryl Smith Mosaics in creating the Sammamish Community Progress Flag. Stop by the mosaic tent to lay colored pieces of recycled glass and tile in this fantastic design. People of all ages are encouraged to participate; no experience is necessary. A great opportunity to show your pride and respect for all. Educational resources will be available. This project is funded by the 2022 Sammamish Art Commission Grant.

Sammamish Outdoor Art Piece "Celebrating Diversity, Inclusion and Equity"

Request for Proposals (RFP) - Seeking artists to design and create an art piece for one of Sammamish Community Parks. The theme is "Celebrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Learn more about this opportunity:

www.sammamish.us/government/commissions-boards/arts-commission/request-for-proposals-rfp-outdoor-art-piece

**For all events, visit
www.sammamish.us/parks-recreation-facilities/special-events**

Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Join with us during the month of May as we recognize and honor Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This month we encourage everyone to pause and recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements in our community and in the United States overall.

We invite you to visit the City's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion page at connect.sammamish.us/equity-diversity-inclusion during the month of May to discover events and activities happening in our region and around the country honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

History of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

A former congressional staffer in the 1970s, Jeanie Jew, first approached the idea of designating a month to recognize Asian Pacific Americans, following the bicentennial celebrations. In June 1977, a United States House of Representatives resolution was introduced to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate a month later.

The proposed resolutions sought May be designated for two reasons. For on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrant arrived in the United States. More than two decades later, on May 10, 1869, the First Transcontinental Railroad was completed and Chinese labor was used to construct the railroad. President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution for the celebration on October 5, 1978.

Louis Thompson Road Tightline Project

The City of Sammamish is designing improvements to Louis Thompson Road from 210th Pl SE to Eastlake Sammamish Parkway NE. You can learn more about the project and share your input on design alternatives at connect.sammamish.us/Louis-Thompson-Tightline.



Resident Profile: Origami Teachers Sierra & Mariko

Sammamish residents Sierra and her mother Mariko have been teaching origami and other Japanese art and culture classes around Washington state and internationally. We are fortunate to have Sierra and Mariko share their craft of origami with the Sammamish community.

You've been teaching origami virtually through the City's Parks & Recreation program for over a year. What's it been like? How did you first get introduced to origami?

Sierra: It's been amazing – so much fun! My earliest memories of doing origami are with my mom, whether it's been at home or when we visit family in Japan. I remember my mom coming into my elementary classrooms as a volunteer to teach origami. Now that I'm studying to become an elementary school teacher myself, I am also teaching origami to my students. It's such a fun and creative experience, while also sharing the pride I have in my heritage with my students.

Mariko: Growing up in Japan, everybody learns origami in pre-school. When we have recess in school, we play with origami, it's just a natural part of our culture. When my kids were younger, I would teach origami in their class about once a month. I was so happy when I bumped into an old classmate of Sierra's in Safeway, and he said, "I remember you taught me origami!" He made my day! I currently work for a school district and started teaching origami again at Margaret Mead.

How wonderful you are sharing the craft of origami with the Sammamish community. Tell us what the experience has been like for you.

Sierra: I look forward to it every time. I never know how many people are going to join, or their age ranges – each time is different, and it's been really fun. It's been a nice bonding experience, even though it's all been virtual.

The classes are always well attended. Why do you think origami is so appealing?

Sierra: Interest in anime and Japanese culture is booming, and is especially appealing to younger kids. Origami is calming; it is therapeutic to take one piece of paper and be able to make whatever you want that day. I've been trying to teach a range of different animals and flowers each time. It is exciting and new and you never know what you can create out of it.

Mariko: From a parent's perspective, it is encouraging to see kids do something other than playing on devices.

What have you learned about the Sammamish community from teaching these origami classes?

Sierra: I know it has been hard doing this virtually. I am taking virtual graduate classes myself and I know how hard it is to keep your attention on the screen.

The participants are so willing to work hard and be patient and learn something new. It's been really fun to see that wide age range in the classes. I know it sounds kind of silly, but I really do leave every class smiling.

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. What does that mean for you personally?

Sierra: The grad program I am in focuses a lot on social justice education and we do a lot of identity work. We've dived into the reality that there's been a lot of anti-Asian hate crimes recently.

I think it is a great month to celebrate, but I think it is also really necessary. It is nice to be represented and to showcase the excellence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Mariko: Sammamish is amazing in its diversity. From each culture, there are so many things to learn.





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2022 SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



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You can email the entire City Council at citycouncil@sammamish.us

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Lita Hachey
City Clerk

Dan Pingrey
Sammamish Police Chief

Jeff Clark
EF&R Fire Chief

Aaron Antin
Finance Director

Jim Hominiuk
IT Director

Jeff Elekes
Public Works Director

David Pyle
Community Development
Director

Anjali Myer
Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Director

City Resources

Police Non-Emergency
(206) 296-3311

Eastside Fire & Rescue
(425) 313-3200

King County Sheriff
(206) 263-9133

WA State COVID Call Center
1 (800) 525-0127

King County Animal Control
(206) 296-7387

Garbage - Republic Services
(425) 646-2400

Sammamish Permit Center
(425) 295-0531

**Sammamish Plateau Water
and Sewer**
(425) 392-6256

**NE Sammamish Water and
Sewer**
(425) 868-1144

Community Van
communityvan@sammamish.us

City Notices

Have an issue or concern?
Use the *My Sammamish* app
on your smartphone.

Have an emergency?
Dial 911

Receive Email and Text Alerts
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