



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

CITY ADOPTS UTILITY TAX

**TOWN CENTER
UPDATE**

**WATER & WILDFIRE
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

June 2025

Photo credit: Claire Burton

Sammamish City Council



Karen Howe
Mayor



Amy Lam
Deputy Mayor



Roisin O'Farrell
Councilmember



Kali Clark
Councilmember



Kent Treen
Councilmember



Pamela Stuart
Councilmember



Sid Gupta
Councilmember

Council Meetings

Regular council meetings are held on the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with a study session on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil.

To contact the Sammamish City Council, email citycouncil@sammamish.us.

Coffee with Council

Join us for a cup of coffee and conversation. Coffee with Council happens the first Saturday of every month with rotating councilmember attendance. Meet them at 9:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Market in Sammamish. The councilmembers may be in the outdoor seating area depending on the weather conditions. Otherwise, you will find them in the upstairs seating area near the café. We hope to see you there!

coffee w/council



First Saturday of Every Month
9:30 a.m.
Metropolitan Market

City of Sammamish
State of the City
April 8, 2023

Mayor Karen Howe delivers state of the City

Mayor Karen Howe addressed a crowd April 8, delivering the State of the City Speech, which highlighted some of the City's accomplishments as well as outlined the City's future plans.

Some key points included continuing to make headway in sustainability initiatives, supporting diversity and inclusion efforts, and acknowledging the excitement about the development of Town Center—including the forthcoming Ace Hardware, which is expected to open later this year.

"All of us here in Sammamish are on the same team, adore our community, and we all want what is best for the future of the city," Howe said.

The State of the City is strong. Additional housing is coming to Town Center, with townhomes currently under construction. The Mayor highlighted the importance of supporting businesses and affordable housing in order to embrace positive change in the City.

"I want to be clear about this, Sammamish, along with every other community in the region, will continue to evolve and change," Howe said. "Change is a natural evolution for a city."

To view the speech in its entirety visit:
<https://bit.ly/4dvn5VK>

**"All of us here in
Sammamish are on the
same team, adore our
community, and we all
want what is best for the
future of the city."**



**Scan QR for
more event
information!**



**June 25 | 5:30 p.m.
Sammamish Commons**



Senior Program celebrates two years

The Senior Services Program at Beaver Lake Lodge recently celebrated its two-year anniversary! Attendees shared how the program has positively impacted their lives, with one senior noting their blood pressure improved just by participating each week. The knitting club was also recognized for their work in knitting over 1,000 hats, scarves, sweaters, and more for NICU babies and people undergoing cancer treatment at Swedish Hospital.

Each week, approximately 200 residents take part in this program, which is the result of a partnership between the City of Sammamish and Indian American Community Services. The goal is to reduce isolation and promote wellness through socialization, crafts, exercises, and healthy lunches.

Join us at the Lodge on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please email Seniorcoord@iaww.org or call: 253-235-9989 (ext-3)



Sammamish 101: Human Services

The City of Sammamish Human Services program partners with 44 nonprofits that operate 66 programs supporting critical community needs. In 2024, City-supported programs served over 12,000 Sammamish residents in areas such as senior services, disability services, food and housing assistance, domestic violence support, youth and family mental health services, legal assistance, and more. These services play a vital role in improving the wellbeing of our most vulnerable community members.

CrossPath Counseling is an example of the unique partnerships formed through the Human Services program. Since 2008, the City of Sammamish has partnered with CrossPath to offer counseling services tailored to meet the specific needs of the Sammamish community. Over the years, CrossPath has helped thousands of children, youth, and families navigate life's challenges at the house in Town Center's Lower Commons Park

This work is made possible through the City's Human Services grant program and the hard work of resident volunteers on the Human Services Commission. These volunteers meet with local nonprofits, assess community needs, and review applications for nonprofit grant funding. The Commission plays a crucial role in advising the City Council on how best to meet the needs of the Sammamish community.

If you or someone you know needs support, please contact the City to learn about available local resources, or dial 2-1-1 for 24/7 support.

To learn more or connect with City staff, visit:
www.sammamish.us/our-community/services/



Water safety tips

Warmer weather means more time outdoors—hiking, swimming, boating, and making the most of sunny days! But with more fun around water comes the need to stay prepared.

Being safe in the water is important, too. Ensure your family knows how to swim, always watch children in bodies of water and use life jackets to help keep people safe. We do have a life jacket loaner program at Pine Lake and Beaver Lake Parks.

To learn more water safety tips visit:
rdcrss.org/4iX6v32

Learning CPR could save a life in an emergency. Whether you're at the pool, lake, or beach, knowing what to do in those critical moments can make all the difference.

Take a CPR class, refresh your skills, and be ready to help when it matters most.

To learn more about CPR visit:
<https://bit.ly/kingcountycpr>



Preparing for wildfire season

We know our summers often come with the impacts of wildfires in the region and state. Eastside Fire & Rescue has some helpful information to help keep you and your family safe this season.

We live, work and recreate near the Wildland Urban Interface—an area where wildfires can have catastrophic consequences. It is important for communities to proactively address the risks associated with these natural disasters.

Some things you can do to help decrease the chances of a fire include:

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Keep your go bag updated and accessible, make sure it includes food, water, radios, a change of clothes, etc. For more info about go bags:

www.ready.gov/kit

**To learn more about Eastside
Fire & Rescue's wildfire response,
visit their website by scanning QR:**





Upcoming recycling & waste disposal events

The City of Sammamish is dedicated to promoting a clean and sustainable environment. We are pleased to announce two upcoming events for the responsible disposal of hard-to-recycle items and hazardous waste.

On July 12 join us at Eastside Catholic High School for a Mini-Recycling Event. **For a list of accepted materials, visit the City of Sammamish website: www.sammamish.us/news/events/events/recycling-event/july-12-2025-mini-recycling-event/**

From Aug. 8 – 10 the King County Hazardous Wastemobile will be at Eastside Catholic High School. This event allows you to dispose of household hazardous waste, such as paint, cleaners, and pesticides. Proper disposal is vital for environmental and community health. Specific guidelines for accepted materials will be available on King County's website. **For more information, visit: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/hazardous-waste-program/wastemobile>**

We encourage all residents to participate in these events. Together, we can make Sammamish a cleaner, greener place to live!

City adopts utility tax to maintain services

In order to continue to provide valued City services like community events, lifeguards, sustainability programs, and much more, the City Council adopted a 6% utility tax in March. This new revenue follows an \$8.9 million reduction to the General Fund budget and was one of the recommendations from the community-led Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce.

The City started a conversation about its structural budget imbalance in 2022 and convened the taskforce, which recommended a utility tax as a part of a three-pronged approach for the City to achieve fiscal sustainability. Discussions of a utility tax were front and center throughout the 2025/2026 budget process and the Council's annual retreat this year.

The utility tax takes effect on Jan. 1, 2026 and includes a \$200 annual rebate for qualified low-income households. Those eligible for assistance through PSE HELP or King County's property tax relief programs may qualify. This is designed to help people who live in low-income and fixed-income households. Rebates for 2026 will be available in early 2027.



For more information on the utility tax, please watch the March 18, 2025 meeting, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3Zh1cU5>.

PSE Help: <https://bit.ly/4imXEay>

King County Senior Property Tax Exemption: <https://bit.ly/kctaxexemptions>

Energy Smart, Solar Ready

Did you know that Sammamish has a Climate Action Plan? While the City is working to reduce municipal emissions by transitioning its fleet to electric vehicles and alternative fuels, among other strategies, residents are key to Sammamish achieving our collective climate goals. Adopted in 2023, the CAP shows the majority of emissions in the City come from the residential energy sector, making up 88% of the City's carbon emissions.

You can help the environment by going electric and save money by maximizing energy efficiency at home. A few things to do include turning off your lights and thermostat when away, unplugging appliances that aren't in use, and switching to energy efficient appliances like heat pumps.

What is a Heat Pump?

Electric heat pumps are energy-efficient heating and cooling systems that replace traditional home heating like a furnace, boiler, or baseboard. Heat pumps are not only cleaner – producing 91% fewer emissions over their lifetime compared to traditional gas furnaces – they have the added benefit of air conditioning. Heat pumps also provide other great functions, including dehumidifying and air purification, a key benefit as our region experiences more extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

City of Sammamish is partnered with our neighboring cities on the Energy Smart Eastside program.

The program provides free education and instant rebates for all income levels, as well as special incentives for low- and moderate-income households. Community members benefit from manufacturer discounts and education on utility incentives, in addition to low-interest financing options.

With a heat pump, your household is more resilient to climate extremes — keeping you warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and saving money on energy bills. Visit EnergySmartEastside.org to learn more.

Already have a heat pump? Learn more about what else you can do to make a positive impact on the environment at Sammamish.us/Sustainability.



Passionate about sustainability and interested in getting more involved?

The Sammamish Sustainability Commission has an open position – apply now through June 20.



Solarize Eastside Last call for enrollment!

Enrollment ends July 4.

Ready, set, solarize! Join your neighbors for a limited-time residential program that makes installing solar easier and more affordable than ever. Solarize provides discounted prices, free public workshops and made-in-Washington equipment. Sign up today for your free home solar assessment! Enrollment ends on July 4, 2025.

Visit SolarizeEastside.org to learn more.



2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program

The City working on its 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program, commonly referred to as the CIP, which is a six-year lookahead for major projects that will improve Sammamish's streets, parks, facilities, stormwater systems, and technology.

The CIP identifies funding and timing for priority projects that align with the City's Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and other strategic plans. Potential projects on the CIP are identified through community requests, staff identification, long-range plans, and asset (ex. crosswalks, parks, stormwater pipes) management monitoring. The CIP includes all components of capital project delivery— planning, design, permitting, and construction. Once a project on the CIP is completed, the new asset (sidewalk, road, storm drain, etc.) is the City's to maintain.

The 2026-2031 CIP will be presented to City Council and the community in early fall, with adoption of the CIP by City Council planned for November 2025. Community involvement is a vital part of developing the CIP. Residents and businesses often give input at City Council and commission meetings when long-range plans, such as the Transportation and Stormwater Master Plans are being updated. Additionally, neighbors near a proposed project participate in open house events to give input during the planning, design, and sometimes, construction phases.

To learn more visit: www.sammamish.us/CIP

Join us for National Night Out



National Night Out is an annual community and law enforcement event. On Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, neighborhoods throughout the City of Sammamish are invited to join thousands of communities nationwide for the 42nd annual National Night Out.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while fostering a true sense of community and promoting safety. It's a great opportunity to bring police and residents together under positive circumstances.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Promote police-community partnerships
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit
- Build unity in the fight against crime

National Night Out lets people know that Sammamish is united and committed to creating a safer community for all.

If you would like to host a gathering or block party in your neighborhood (and have officers attend), please visit our website

www.sammamish.us/government/police/national-night-out/



Town Center construction continues with new stormwater vault, upcoming workshop gives public opportunity to learn more

Construction of the Brownstones West townhome development is underway, along with a new underground regional stormwater vault that will serve townhomes and adjacent developments

Brownstones West is a 38-unit townhome development at Southeast 4th Street and 222nd Place Southeast. The site features two rows of townhomes with one row facing west along 222nd Place Southeast and the other row will face a “green street” to the east, which is a landscaped area with a walking trail. In between the rows of townhomes is an alleyway for garage access.

To the north, the development extends from Southeast 4th Street, and to the south, it extends to the future Southeast 5th and 6th Streets. The newly constructed Southeast 6th Street will replace the entrance and parking area for the Lower Sammamish Commons Park with a two-way street with diagonal parking spaces on both sides of the street. Surface stormwater from Brownstones West and neighboring developments will be directed to the new vault and metered-out to ensure downstream impacts are mitigated.

The Brownstones East townhome development is also underway. The City is also reviewing site development permits for two seven-story, mixed-use buildings along Southeast 4th Street with a public plaza in between the buildings. The mixed-use buildings will include 348 residential units and 80,000 square feet of commercial space. Affordable units are being proposed in Brownstones East and in the mixed-use buildings.

For more information please visit www.sammamish.us/projects/town-center-development/

How to get involved

The City is hosting a workshop on June 25 to hear public input on draft amendments to the Town Center development code. At the workshop, staff will provide information on the proposed code updates and will be available to answer questions.

Work on the updated Town Center Plan and Code update began two years ago with an analysis of existing conditions and an audit of the development code. The process includes updates to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the Town Center Plan, and the accompanying development code. Drafts of the Supplemental EIS and plan will be available for review in June.

The Town Center Plan and Code update is expected to conclude with public hearings and adoption in November. For more information visit **www.sammamish.us/tcamendment/**

Central Washington University to conclude lease, new uses for the building will be explored

Central Washington University has leased a City-owned building at 120 228th Ave. NE since 2017. With CWU concluding its lease at the end of this school year, the City is working on a thoughtful plan for the building's future.

This transition is in two phases:

Immediate Use (starting July 1, 2025): The City is exploring short-term options, including continuing some of the existing subleases and not expanding operations. To ensure the building remains operational and secure following CWU's departure, the City is preparing for several immediate needs:

- Transferring building access, security
- Conducting necessary infrastructure repairs
- Providing basic furnishings, staffing, technology to support continued building use

Long-Term Vision: Staff will begin evaluating what would be needed to add to the work plan. The long-term future of the facility will be shaped by community input and a detailed evaluation of space needs, capital improvements, and operational feasibility. This level of planning and implementation cannot be supported with existing staffing or financial resources. Realizing this vision will require substantial long-term investment beyond the City's current budget. One potential strategy is to incorporate the facility into a future voter-approved Metropolitan Park District (MPD), which could provide a dedicated funding source for operations, maintenance, staffing, and potential enhancements aligned with community priorities.

Long-term planning for the building will begin in 2026 once added to the work plan. Stay tuned for opportunities to share your ideas and get involved.



Farmers Market returns with special events, local vendors

The Sammamish Farmers Market 2025 season is in full swing! The market runs every Wednesday from 4–8 p.m. at Sammamish Commons, now through Sept. 17. Operated by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce since its founding in 2008, and partially funded by the City, the market continues to support local farmers, small businesses, and the vibrant community.

Vendors include local farmers, artisan crafters, and food processors, offering a wide variety of fresh produce, handmade goods, and specialty foods. Visitors will find delicious food truck vendors and local youth entrepreneurs selling their own handmade creations each week.

Enjoy weekly live entertainment featuring local bands, dance groups, Spotlight Rep NW, Moore Brothers Music students, and improv performances.

The Kids POP (Power of Produce) Program is also back! Sponsored by TLC Montessori, this fun initiative gives kids a \$2 coupon to pick out a fruit or vegetable from our farmers. Kids can check in at the dedicated POP booth when they arrive. Plus, each week features fun activities to keep kids engaged and excited to connect with our local vendors!

Special event days:

June 25: Pride Day

July 16: Stay Healthy Sammamish Day

Aug. 6: Sustainable Sammamish Day

Sept. 17: Welcome Week Cultural Day

Thank you to the 2025 Sammamish Farmers Market sponsors:

City of Sammamish, Metropolitan Market, Indigo Urgent Care, American Family Insurance – Amato & Associates, and Swedish/Providence Hospital.

Don't miss our summer events!

Drop by some of our free, family-friendly programming this summer!



Fourth on the Plateau

Friday, July 4
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sammamish Commons Park



Kids First Events

July 15 - Aug. 12
Tues., 1-2 p.m.
Sammamish Commons Plaza



Concerts in the Park

July 17 - Aug. 14
Thurs., 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park



Shakespeare in the Park

Friday, July 25
7-8:45 p.m.
Klahanie Park

For more information check out our website and social media platforms. If you would like to volunteer with the City, please visit: sammamish.galaxydigital.com/need



Upcoming City Hall Closures

June 19
Juneteenth

July 4
Independence Day

Sept. 1
Labor Day



PLATEAU

July 4th
5-10:15 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Park



How to Get Information & Get Involved

Sammamish City Council Meetings

Regular city council meetings are held on the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, with a study session on the second Tuesday at 6:30 pm. For agendas, minutes, and meeting videos, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil. To contact the Sammamish City Council, email citycouncil@sammamish.us.

Sammamish Planning Commission

Sammamish Planning Commission meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 pm. For agendas, minutes, and meeting videos, go to sammamish.us/planningcommission. To contact the Sammamish Planning Commission, email planningcommission@sammamish.us.

Additional Public Meeting Information

Stay informed on city government with CivicWeb Portal. See a schedule of meetings, get meeting agendas, and view past meetings at sammamishwa.civicweb.net

Receive Email and Text Alerts

To subscribe to the City of Sammamish email updates and text alerts go to sammamish.us/subscribe.

City Newsletter

Suggestions or concerns? Contact communications@sammamish.us

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Scan the QR code or visit us at
www.sammamish.us

RESOURCES FOR SAMMAMISH RESIDENTS

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Police Non-Emergency (206) 296-3311

Eastside Fire & Rescue (425) 313-3200

King County Sheriff (206) 263-9133

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



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Community Repair event

at the Sammamish Library

SAVE THE DATE

The Sammamish Library, in partnership with the King County Solid Waste, will host a community repair event Aug. 2 from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

This is a free event at the library inside the main meeting room. Skilled volunteer “fixers” will try to repair and mend small household items and clothing for residents. Fixers can potentially work on electronics, small furniture and clothing. All items brought in for repair must be clean. Fixers cannot work on any items with gasoline, cell phones, microwaves, knives, tool sharpening or any other lengthy reconstructive repairs.

To learn more about what items you can bring, or to contact the person in charge of the events, please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/repaiirevents>