



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**GET TO KNOW
TOWN CENTER**

FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU

**PONDS WITH A
PURPOSE**



July 2023

Sammamish City Council



Kali Clark
Mayor



Amy Lam
Deputy Mayor



Roisin O'Farrell
Councilmember



Rituja Indapure
Councilmember



Kent Treen
Councilmember



Pamela Stuart
Councilmember



Karen Howe
Councilmember

Council Meetings

Regular 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 more information, go to sammamish.us/citycouncil.

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

Coffee with Council

On the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 am, join Sammamish City Councilmembers for a cup of coffee and conversation at Metropolitan Market in Sammamish. Depending on the weather conditions, the councilmembers may be in the outdoor seating area. Otherwise, you'll find them in the upstairs seating area near the cafe. We hope to see you there!

BIG IDEAS:

Get

INVOLVED!

sammamish.us/BigIdeas



You Can Help Plan Sammamish's Future!

What's Happening with the Comprehensive Plan

The 20-year roadmap for Sammamish's future is being developed now and your voice matters. Envision Sammamish 2044, the 2024 update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, is currently underway. This includes creating, updating, and reviewing goals and policies in areas like housing, transportation, land use, climate change and resiliency, economic development, capital facilities, utilities, parks, and shoreline. The City is also working to create policy documents to support the Comprehensive Plan like a Climate Action Plan, a Housing Diversification Toolkit, a Transit Study, and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This summer and fall, the Planning Commission and City Council will be reviewing these plans, goals, and policies, and we encourage you to follow along, provide your input, and attend events by visiting www.envisionsammamish2044.org and sammamish.us/bigideas.



Preserving Sammamish's Trees

City Council Reaffirms Regulations and Penalties for Unauthorized Removal

Before you remove a tree, check the rules. The city's tree ordinance, originally adopted in 2015, requires a permit for the removal of a significant tree. If a property owner removes a significant tree without a permit, that's a violation of city code and carries consequences like penalties of \$1,500 and up per inch of diameter at breast height of the tree removed and requirements to plant new trees to mitigate the violation.

The Sammamish City Council passed a resolution on April 18, 2023 regarding tree removal regulations within the city. The resolution reaffirms that unauthorized tree removal is subject to both mitigation (replanting) and payment of a civil penalty.

The city's commitment to preserving its trees not only helps maintain the natural beauty of the area but also contributes to the overall health of the environment. For more information about tree permits, please visit the City's website at sammamish.us/trees.



Vacation Safety Tips

From the Sammamish Police Department



Summer break from school and great weather can be enticing conditions for vacation. Here are some tips that will help keep your home safe and your mind at peace while you're out of town.

- Make sure all doors and windows are locked. If you have a burglar alarm, set it.
- Don't share on social media that you're away. Wait until you're home to share those amazing photos of your first snorkeling adventure.
- Place a hold on your mail and newspaper delivery. Nothing screams "the owner's gone" like a pile of papers on the front porch.
- Mow your front lawn before you go. You want it to look like someone's living on the premises and taking good care of it.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, disconnect it—potential thieves won't be able to open your garage door with a universal remote.
- Tell your neighbors you'll be gone. They can keep an eye on your property and will probably take out (and put back) your trash and recycle bins if you ask nicely.
- Consider having a house/pet sitter. If you don't have a house/pet sitter, sign up to have a police officer check on your home: sammamish.us/police.
- Remove the spare key from under the front door mat. Never put it back there!
- Enjoy your time away, knowing that you did your due diligence!

About the Sammamish Police Department

The Sammamish Police Department is a contract partner of the King County Sheriff's Office. The department has 30 full-time officers. Learn more at sammamish.us/police.



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The Evolution of Sammamish Town Center: A Vibrant Urban Oasis

More progress is on the way for Sammamish Town Center’s transformation into an urban hub, where residents can live, work, learn, create, and play amidst the city’s natural beauty. Construction in Town Center might come as a surprise to anyone who moved to Sammamish in the last few years. There has been little development activity since Sammamish Townhomes, The Village, and SAMM Apartments were constructed. With more development on the way, Sammamish residents are encouraged to learn more about how the community’s vision created the Town Center plan.

The Vision of a Harmonious Balance

The Town Center plan was adopted in 2008, with implementing regulations adopted in late 2010 and early 2011. The Sammamish Town Center is roughly bounded on the north by East Main Street, on south by SE 8th Street, on the east by 233rd Avenue and on the west by 222nd Street. The area also includes the 30-acre Sammamish Commons which is home to City Hall, Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center, Library and park. In all, the Town Center plan encompasses 240 acres in the vicinity of the Sammamish Commons.

The Town Center Plan emerged out of a desire of the community to be intentional about where growth happens in Sammamish. In a growing region, Sammamish’s natural and unique beauty draws people to live, work, and play in this community. It was important for the community to plan its Town Center in a way that enhances and builds upon what makes Sammamish special.

During the Town Center planning process, there was extensive public outreach and participation, including more than 30 public meetings, open houses, surveys, design charrettes, and other public input opportunities. The collaborative approach ensured that Town Center would truly reflect the community’s vision and aspirations.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Town Hall:
Sammamish Town Center

When: Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Time: Doors Open at 5:30 pm, presentation and open house from 6 to 8 pm

Location: Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE

Learn more about the Town Center plan and what projects are in the pipeline.

More info:
sammamish.us/towncenter

The Town Center Plan was conceived with a clear vision in mind—to create a vibrant and family-friendly gathering place that strikes a harmonious balance between urban and natural elements. By offering a range of commercial, recreational, cultural, educational, and personal services, Town Center aims to cater to the needs of a diverse and multicultural Sammamish community. The community’s vision emphasized the integration of Town Center with the existing parks and open spaces, preserving scenic views and enhancing the city’s distinctive character. The Town Center Plan also prioritizes sustainability, incorporating environmentally friendly features into its developments.

Moreover, the Town Center Plan calls for fostering education for all community members, supporting workers and businesses, and promoting a lively arts community. The integration of well-designed mixed-use developments, a variety of housing types, and excellent transit and pedestrian connectivity were key objectives to ensure the success of Town Center as an urban oasis.

Transforming the Landscape

In 2016, Town Center began to take shape, transforming the landscape of Sammamish into a vibrant urban destination. Three notable developments, Sammamish Townhomes, The Village, and SAMM Apartments played a crucial role in this transformation.

Sammamish Townhomes, situated in the southeast quadrant of Town Center, combines commercial, residential, and live/work spaces. The Village, located at the intersection of 228th Ave SE and SE 4th Street, embraces a walkable, dense, and sustainable design. It encompasses the Metropolitan Market, restaurants, retail spaces, offices, medical facilities, and residential apartments. SAMM Apartments is located in the northeast quadrant of the Sammamish Town Center and includes 92 apartment units and 14,000 SF of commercial space.

Today, Town Center offers diverse housing options, retail opportunities, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and public gathering spaces. The inclusion of 55 affordable housing units aligns with the city’s established goals.

Setting the Stage

Since Sammamish Townhomes, The Village, and SAMM Apartments were completed in 2019, construction slowed in Town Center. Development was delayed while the City of Sammamish revisited transportation requirements. Now that transportation issues have been resolved, new projects are ready to move forward.

Town Center Projects on Tap

Brownstones West: Expanded Housing Choices

An upcoming development by STCA, LLC, Brownstones West, situated in the southwest quadrant of the Town Center, will bring 38 lots with a mix of single family and townhome units, some of which will be offered at below market rates at 80% AMI. This project, in accordance with the Town Center Plan, will further diversify housing options within Sammamish.

Status: Construction permits are currently under review.

Aegis Living: Senior Care and Living

Aegis Living, a provider of assisted living and memory care facilities, has proposed a four-story, approximately 86,000 square foot facility, that will cater to the needs of seniors in the community. With a focus on senior medical services, Aegis Living will contribute to the growing demand for high-quality senior care options in Sammamish.

Status: Commercial Site Development Permit is currently under review.

Lake Washington School District: Education for a Growing Community

To address the community’s growing educational needs, plans are underway for a new facility in Town Center belonging to the Lake Washington School District. This three-story, 80,000 square feet building will provide a state-of-the-art educational facility with flexibility to accommodate the needs of Sammamish’s expanding population.

Status: Unified Zone Development Plan is currently under review.

Sammamish Town Center SW Quadrant Mixed Use Development: New Housing and Shopping Opportunities

STCA, LLC has proposed 348 multifamily residential units and approximately 82,000 square feet of commercial space. The development is located in a zone of the Town Center specifically designated for mixed use and higher-density residential communities. The specific designation for this area of the Town Center is part of the overall vision of diverse housing options, sustainable growth, and fostering a sense of place.

Status: Unified Zone Development Plan is currently under review.

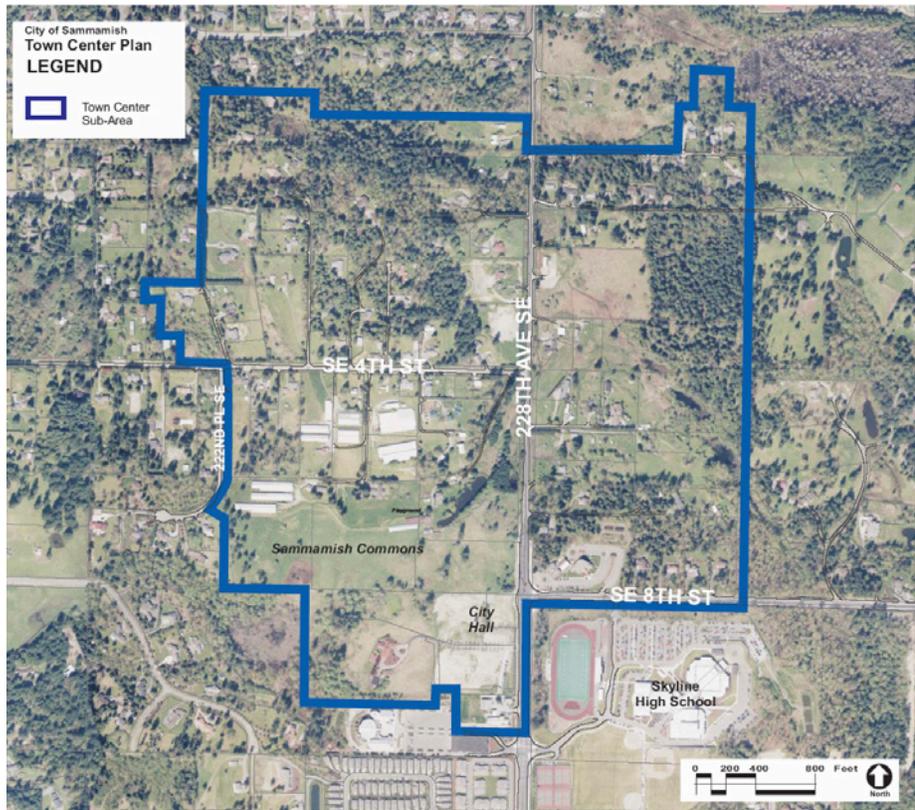
Notch Property Park

Notched within the Town Center Mixed-Use area and directly adjacent to Lower Sammamish Commons is a 1.37-acre City-owned site currently referred to as the “Notch” property. The City of Sammamish is currently working on a concept design for the potential new park. Learn more about how to get involved on page 9.

While the Town Center plan provides clear guidance to ensure Town Center develops in alignment with the community's vision, there is flexibility in the configuration, mix of uses, circulation patterns, parking facilities, and open space design of the individual project areas. There are also opportunities for property owners to work together to plan circulation routes, open spaces and amenities, the type and character of development, parking and storm water management facilities, and trails. These planning processes are carefully coordinated and reviewed by the City to ensure projects follow Town Center Plan guidelines and other permitting requirements. In this way, development of Town Center can happen in a way that harnesses market dynamics, optimizes the use of space in the Town Center, and aligns with the community's priorities.

The Power of Collaboration

The evolution of the Town Center Project in Sammamish showcases a remarkable journey of community engagement, thoughtful planning, and sustainable development. From its vision of a vibrant urban oasis that strikes a balance between urban and natural elements to its extensive public involvement efforts, Town Center has become a testament to the power of collaboration. With existing developments like Sammamish Townhomes, The Village, SAMM Apartments, and with property owners coordinating with the City on new projects, Town Center is well on its way to becoming a bustling urban hub that provides a diverse range of services, fosters community interaction, and cherishes Sammamish's natural beauty.



Learn More

The community is invited learn more about the Town Center plan and what projects are in the pipeline at Town Hall: Sammamish Town Center on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at Sammamish City Hall. Doors open at 5:30 pm and there will be a presentation and open house from 6 to 8 pm.

For more information about the Town Hall event, the Town Center plan, and projects, go to sammamish.us/towncenter.

On-Demand Transportation: Metro Flex

Metro Flex is a King County Metro on-demand transit service that replaced the Sammamish Community Ride program on March 6, 2023. Metro Flex fulfills trips within a specified service area. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 7am-6pm and Saturdays 9am-6pm. Rides can be requested same day via the Metro Flex app or by phone.

For additional information, visit sammamish.us/metroflex.

Flexible Transit: Drive or Ride in Community Van

Community Van is a rideshare program in partnership with King County Metro that connects riders and volunteer drivers to rider-requested destinations. It can be used one time or for recurring trips of up to two hours from Sammamish. Trips can accommodate up to 12 people and are scheduled by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). Trips must be requested in advance, and can occur on any day at any time, subject to volunteer availability. Metro provides the van and pays for gas and tolls. **For further information, including how to schedule a ride or volunteer as a driver, visit sammamish.us/communityvan.**



You may notice new equipment in this photo: these are gauges that allow staff to track how high the pond water levels are and help staff respond and prepare for large rain events.

Ponds with a Purpose

Is there a stormwater pond in your neighborhood? Stormwater ponds are not your average swimming, fishing, or frog-catching ponds. They are human-made basins often designed to look like a natural water body. But the purpose of a stormwater pond is very different than a natural water body. A stormwater pond's function is to capture rain runoff from roofs, streets, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces, reducing the volume of pollutants reaching our lakes, rivers, and wetlands and reducing flooding.

Maintenance of a stormwater pond is a vital element in ensuring a pond functions properly. With over 600 stormwater facilities, maintaining them is no small feat. City stormwater inspectors and maintenance staff work tirelessly to prevent flooding through annual inspections and regular maintenance.

One element of pond maintenance is controlling vegetation by mowing. Each pond is mowed once per year in the driest months. Typically, mowing all of the ponds starts in mid-May and ends by early September.

With hundreds of ponds to mow in a short time frame, City staff and the mowing contractor work very hard to move through the City in the most effective way. The City is organized into five zones and the contractor mows all zones, usually working from north to south. Mowing is not done for looks or by request and instead follows a programmatic approach. This ensures the most efficient use of staff time and taxpayer money for maintaining the function of these facilities. The mowing zone map and approximate time frames for each zone is available at sammamish.us/pondmowing.

THE CONE ZONE

Scheduled Road Work Projects to Know About



Summer Road Work Alert

Pavement overlays and ADA retrofits on Sammamish's roads are planned for mid to late summer. For updates and to see if any of the work will be happening on the roads you typically drive, check out the Cone Zone page on the city website. Cone Zone provides weekly articles about projects underway and what roads in Sammamish might be impacted by work. **NEW!** You can now subscribe to Cone Zone updates! Receive updates right in your inbox each Friday. View Cone Zone and subscribe at sammamish.us/ConeZone.

Have a Say in How You Want to Play!

The 2024 PROS Plan Update is Now Underway

The City of Sammamish is in the process of gathering the community's needs and priorities for parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a guiding document that provides specific goals, objectives, and recommendations for developing, conserving, and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, facilities, and programs throughout Sammamish.

The PROS Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents city wide through robust community engagement. It also provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, needs analysis, management considerations, and parks capital improvement plan. The PROS Plan is a part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and must be updated every six years for Sammamish to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Learn more and provide input in several ways:

- Follow us on social media
- Sign up for updates
- Find our table at the Farmer's Markets on August 2 & September 6
- Join us for an Open House event on September 13 during the last Market of the year where we will summarize everything we've heard from the community throughout the year
- Learn more at sammamish.us/PROSPlan



Thank You for Celebrating Earth Day

Thank you to all who celebrated Earth Day at Beaver Lake on April 22, 2023. About 2,500 people experienced this very interactive event which included a petting zoo, bug/reptile station, educational demonstrations by The Falconer as well as community-hosted booths. The City's volunteer coordinator and youth board volunteers helped people paint flower pots or build terrariums to take home. With twenty-two community group booths, there was something for everyone! Thank you to the event sponsor, Sammamish Plateau Water.



Sammamish Arts Commission City Hall Exhibit

The Sammamish Arts Commission is honored to present its latest exhibit, Nature and Nurture now through August 15. This public art exhibition showcases an eclectic blend of nine emerging and established working artists. Artists include Anita Yan Wong, Bethany Fackrell, Cleopatra Cutler, Damon Brown, Irene Kwong, Louie Gong, Rodney H. King, Sharon Tu, and Sophia Trinh. This City Hall exhibit is open to the public during City Hall business hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm.

Concept Design Options for New Park at the Notch Property

Thank you to those who participated in the previous community outreach for the Notch Property park program. We appreciate hearing your input! The Parks, Recreation & Facilities team is now ready to share concept design options for the park.

About the Project

Notched within the Town Center Mixed-Use area and directly adjacent to Lower Sammamish Commons is a 1.37-acre City-owned site currently referred to as the "Notch" property. The site is identified as part of the Green Spine in the Town Center Plan and Town Center Infrastructure Plan, so this project will build upon the work already done and proceed with Concept Design instead of a typical master plan process. Used as a guiding document for implementing future improvements, the Concept Design will create the initial "big picture" of the park.

What's Happening Now

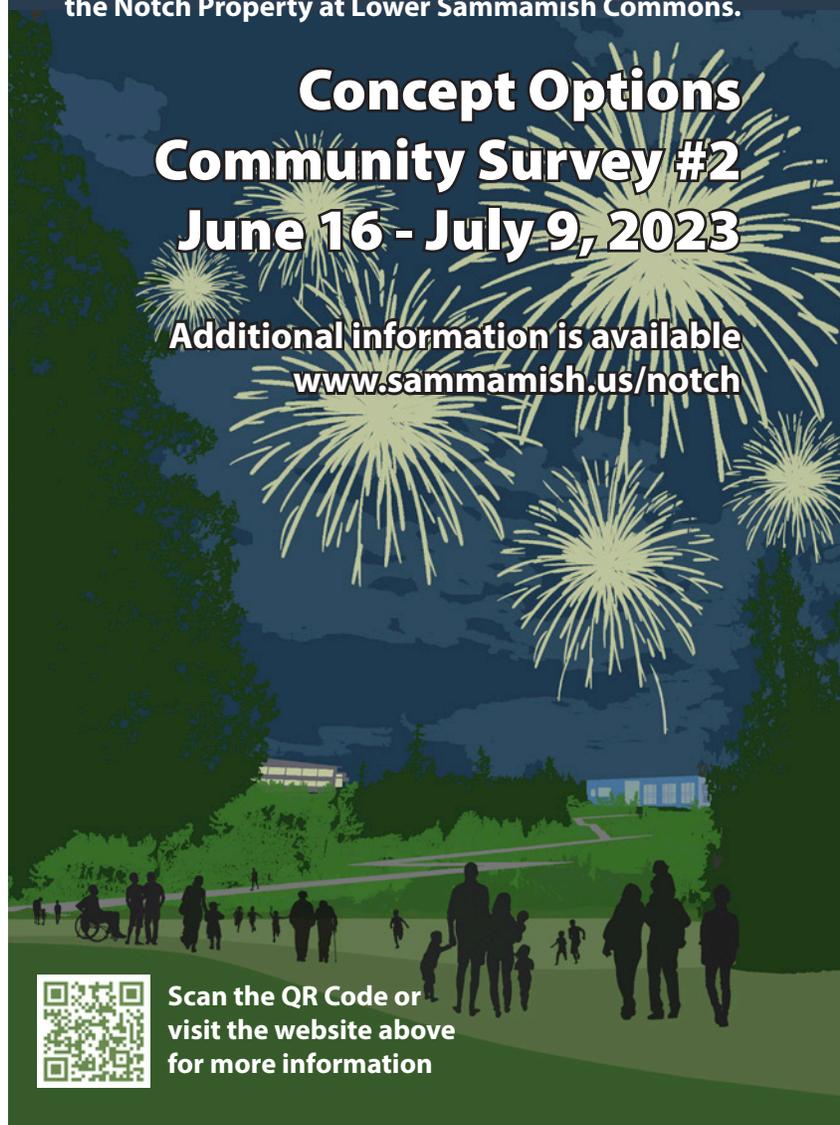
The City is currently in Phase 3 of the process: the development of the concept design. Feedback from the park program survey was combined with the results of site analysis, site studies, and City staff input to create three design options. Community input will help refine those concepts to create a final preferred concept design option that will be included in a concept design report. This phase will also include public involvement. Funds for implementing the concept plan may be budgeted for in the future following adoption by City Council.

Notch Property Park Concept Design

Share your input on the Concept Design Options for the Notch Property at Lower Sammamish Commons.

Concept Options Community Survey #2 June 16 - July 9, 2023

Additional information is available
www.sammamish.us/notch



Scan the QR Code or visit the website above for more information

BIG IDEAS:

Get

INVOLVED!

Get Involved!

There will be multiple opportunities to share your feedback this summer and fall:

- Participate in our Community Survey #2 of Preliminary Design Concepts: June 16 - July 9, 2023
- Community Survey #3 of Final Design Concept: September 2023

For more detailed information on the upcoming event, to participate in the Concept Design Options online survey, and to stay up to date on where we are in the process, please visit the project website at www.sammamish.us/notch.



Meet Crosspath Counselor, **Zachary Carlson,** **LMHC**

"I have always wanted nothing more than to serve the community I grew up in and am lucky enough to say that I have finally achieved that goal through my work at CrossPath."

If you live, work, or go to school in Sammamish, you or someone you know might have been helped by Zachary Carlson. Zachary has a unique role in the Sammamish community: his position is funded by the City of Sammamish to offer free assessment and referral services for those looking for support for life's challenges.

"My position makes short, free consultation available to any Sammamish resident, individuals who work in Sammamish, and students enrolled at a Sammamish school," Zachary explains. "During this consultation process, I can provide some counseling, resources, and links to local mental healthcare agencies where long-term care can be provided."

The City of Sammamish grants special funding to CrossPath Counseling to support Zachary's full-time position. After evaluating your needs, or the needs of your family, he will connect you with services at the Crosspath office or another counseling group in the community, whichever is the best fit.

Zachary holds a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMCH), and he knows the Sammamish community well. His family settled in the Sammamish area over 100 years ago, and he has lived in the area his entire life.

"I have always wanted nothing more than to serve the community I grew up in and am lucky enough to say that I have finally achieved that goal through my work at CrossPath," says Zachary. "The ability to closely connect with members of the Sammamish community is the part of my job that gives me the most joy."

In addition to assessment and referral services, Zachary provides individual, adolescent, adult, parenting, and gender counseling. He began his work in a clinical setting in 2019 where he interned at a local community mental health agency and joined CrossPath in 2020.

Crosspath therapists have specialized training and experience working with youth and families. They provide individual counseling and family counseling using methods that have been shown to be effective and create changes. Challenges arise at every stage of life, and Crosspath therapists are prepared to help with a wide range of situations, including depression, anxiety, grief and loss, divorce and blended families, developmental disabilities, eating disorders, family conflict, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, processing LGBTQ+ identities, substance use and abuse, behavior issues, and school stress.

"I started my journey to become a therapist because I have always wanted to help people," says Zachary. "I narrowed my career focus to psychology because of my passion for connecting with people emotionally and helping them find their potential in this world."

To contact Crosspath and schedule a free, 30-minute assessment, go to crosspathcounseling.com and select the "Sammamish Residents" link under the "Services" tab. There you will find information on what to expect during the consultation and information about Zachary and his position. Look for the link at the bottom of the page for ways to contact Crosspath and set up the free consultation.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Weekly outdoor concerts happen every Thursday in July and August from 6:30 to 8 pm at Pine Lake Park. This event is free and open to the public. Bring your own dinner or purchase dinner on site from a local food truck vendor. Ice cream is also being sold by the Sammamish Kiwanis. These popular summer concerts are the City of Sammamish's longest running special event series.

- July 6:** Laurel Canyon Legacy
- July 13:** FarmStrong
- July 20:** Santa Poco
- July 27:** Eden
- August 3:** Cloud Cover
- August 10:** The Jewel Tones
- August 17:** The ABBAGraphs
- August 24:** Taylor Made

6:30 - 8:00pm
Thursdays
July - August



Kids First

These fun-filled performances are geared toward toddlers to elementary-age children. Bring your friends: all events are free and open to the public. Performances take place Tuesdays at 1 pm outside on the City Hall plaza under the pergola. Thank you to our event sponsor World Taekwondo Center!

- July 11:** Ella Bella Bee & The Pollinators, Funny & Educational Interactive Music
- July 18:** Reptile Isle- Hands on Adventure
- July 25:** Alex Zerbe's Zaniac Comedy Show
- August 1:** Eric Herman Music
- August 8:** Daffy Dave Show- Interactive Comedy
- August 15:** Mikey Mike- The Rad Scientist
- August 22:** King County Library Activity



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

Follow City of Sammamish on Social Media



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

Community Van communityvan@sammamish.us

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4TH ON THE PLATEAU

Join the City of Sammamish for some red, white, and blue family fun on the 4th of July! Enjoy food trucks, kids activities, outdoor yard games, and live music. This event is free and open to the public. Limited lawn seating is available in the Upper Commons (801 228th Ave SE) and an abundance of grass seating is available in the Lower Commons (550 222nd Pl SE). For more information, please follow the Parks and Recreation Facebook page or see the City of Sammamish website.

