



# NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**THE FUTURE OF SAMMAMISH:  
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

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**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY  
APRIL 22**

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**PLAN YOUR DRIVE USING  
TRAFFIC CAMERAS**



**March 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

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](http://sammamish.us/citycouncil). To contact the Sammamish City Council, email [citycouncil@sammamish.us](mailto:citycouncil@sammamish.us).

## 2023 Council Goals

### Environment

Goal: Protect and, if appropriate, enhance the natural environment and address climate change through development of citywide policies, initiatives, and actions that ensure a sustainable future.

### Trust & Transparency

Goal: Ensure City government is transparent and builds trust with its diverse community by engaging residents in the decision-making process and promoting understanding of the City's activities through education and clear communication.

### Safety

Goal: Maintain a high level of public safety and build citywide resilience through proactive public engagement and coordination with community partners focusing on preparedness, prevention, and mitigation.

### DEIB

Goal: Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in a measurable way throughout the community and in the City government's policies, projects, and services.

### Housing

Goal: Facilitate housing options that meet a diverse range of incomes and needs.

### Financial Sustainability

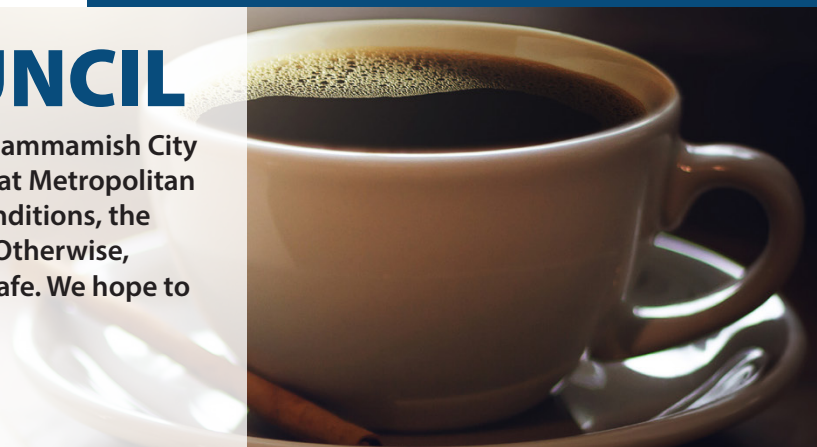
Goal: Ensure long term financial sustainability through efficient and effective government services funded by diverse and reliable revenue sources.

### Transportation

Goal: Develop a holistic multi-modal system that equitably accommodates all modes of travel and is both environmentally and financially sustainable.

## 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!





# A Message from your City Manager

*"We need everyone who lives in Sammamish to weigh in. Together, we will shape the future of Sammamish for generations to come."*

I write with sincere gratitude as the new City Manager in Sammamish. I am honored and humbled by the City Council's faith in me to lead your fantastic city, and I'm excited to work for and with all of you on the road ahead.

First, I like to briefly introduce myself. I'm a third generation Washingtonian, born and raised in the Seattle area, and am a proud Husky grad. I've worked at the state, county, and city level, and I feel like I've found a home here in Sammamish.

As a lifelong northwest resident, I've seen the region grow from a small corner of the country to a national economic powerhouse. As part of that change, there has been significant growth both regionally and in Sammamish. And we are going to continue to grow and mature as a city.

As the City closes in on its 25th birthday in 2024, we are collectively embarking on a journey to set the course for Sammamish's next twenty years. That process is called the Comprehensive Plan, and we want to hear from you, Sammamish residents, about your city and how we grow moving forward. In the middle of this newsletter, you'll find information about just some of the work going on this year. We are calling those projects "Sammamish Big Ideas" because that's what we need from you. In this pivotal year, we hope you will share your big ideas like: In a growing region, where should growth go in Sammamish? What could it look like? What investments do we need to make to accommodate that growth? How do we enhance what makes Sammamish special? How do we make all that happen holistically and sustainably and reduce our climate impact?

Public engagement is critical as we work on these big ideas, and we have multiple options for getting involved. Be sure to visit our Big Ideas page at [sammamish.us/bigideas](http://sammamish.us/bigideas) and find a topic or issue that is interesting to you.

We need everyone who lives in Sammamish to weigh in, even if you have never participated previously. Your voice matters! By sharing your thoughts, you will help your City Council and city staff with important decisions that face our community. Together, we will shape the future of Sammamish for generations to come.

Respectfully,

*Scott MacColl*

## **On the Cover:**

*Xiang-He Dance Theatre performed at the 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration. The City of Sammamish thanks these performers for being part of the celebration and for their permission to have their photo grace the cover of the newsletter.*



# City Staff Recognized for Outstanding Efforts in 2022

Each year, the City of Sammamish honors employees and teams that have made significant contributions. At the end of 2022, City Manager Scott MacColl presented awards for Employee of the Year, Team of the Year, and Project of the Year, along with Special Recognition Awards to six employees and the Police Services leadership team.

## 2022 Employee of the Year: Annelise Diers

Summer wouldn't be the same without fun community events like Fourth on the Plateau and Party on the Plateau. Employee of the Year Annelise Diers stepped up and took the lead on summer events after staff vacancies. Always with a smile, Diers accepted extra responsibilities and worked overtime to coordinate the City's busiest season of events. Diers, who is Rental and Systems Coordinator for the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department, worked with the whole Recreation Team to support a great community turnout.



*Employee of the Year – Annelise Diers (center); Also pictured, Scott MacColl and Emily Scott, Recreation & Cultural Services Manager*

## 2022 Team of the Year: Human Resources Team

Staff are the heart of city operations, so supporting staff members is essential to keep the city running smoothly. Thanks to the new Human Resources team's diligent efforts, the City filled a large backlog of vacant positions during 2022. The team also oversaw an independent HR Assessment and implemented recommendations to better support staff and improve HR functions.

## 2022 Project of the Year: Town Center Project

Over the past three years, an interdepartmental team has helped shape the design of two large development projects in the Town Center. Throughout a challenging process, the team remained committed to achieving the best possible outcome for Sammamish residents, working with the property owners and developer to make design enhancements that will leave a lasting imprint in the community.

**Congratulations to all of the award recipients and thank you for your service to the City of Sammamish!**





# City Begins Planning Efforts to Address Climate Change!

At the direction of the City Council, three complimentary efforts are currently underway to help address climate change. Combined, these efforts will establish a clear plan for the City to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled in alignment with regional goals established by the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C).

This past fall, the City's consultant began working on the grant-funded Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) & Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Strategy. The first step is to measure City's current emissions in transportation and the residential built environment. This baseline will be used to develop strategies to reduce emissions.

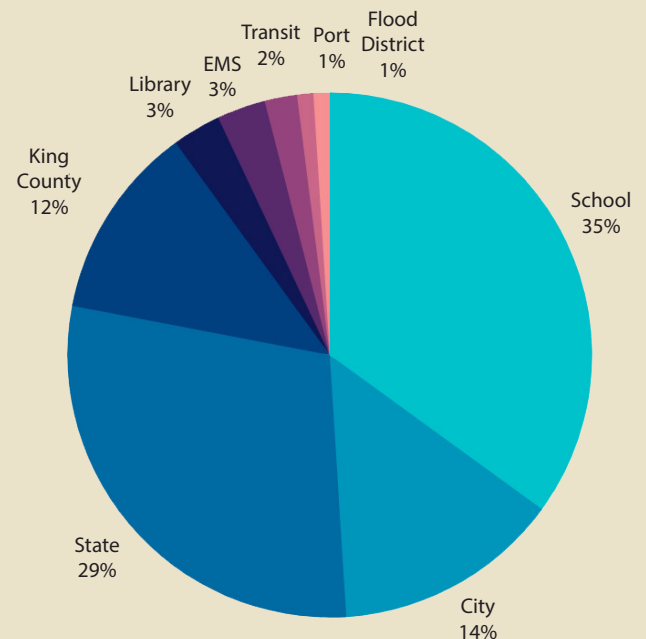
Concurrently, the consultant will inventory additional GHG emissions sources from the other built environments, including commercial, municipal, and educational facilities, and account for the City's urban forest and greenspaces. This complete inventory will inform the development of a new section of the City's Comprehensive Plan which will set long-term reduction targets across various sectors and align with the regional emissions goals.

The complete inventory will also be used to develop a Climate Action Plan, a strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing GHG emissions on a larger scale. The CAP will focus on emission reductions and actions that community members can follow to reduce emissions and help the City meet County and state targets.

**For more information, including upcoming meetings, please visit [www.envisionsammamish2044.org](http://www.envisionsammamish2044.org).**

## Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

When you pay your property tax bill, taxes are split among many public agencies. In 2022, 14% of property taxes go to the City of Sammamish to pay for police and fire services, parks and streets maintenance, recreation programs, emergency management, communications, administration and much more. For more information, look for the Budget-in-Brief or the full City of Sammamish 2023-2024 budget on the City's website.





# BIG IDEAS:

Get

# INVOLVED!

2023 is an important year for Sammamish. Big plans are underway, and we want to hear from you! What are you interested in? Choose at least one topic that's meaningful to you and then go to [sammamish.us/BigIdeas](https://sammamish.us/BigIdeas) to sign up. It's that easy! We're excited to work together to shape Sammamish for generations to come.



## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

The City of Sammamish is working on ways to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in measurable ways in the City's policies, projects, and services as well as throughout the community. We want to hear your ideas!



## Sammamish's Future

Help shape Sammamish for years to come! The City's Comprehensive Plan guides nearly every aspect of how Sammamish grows and develops. The plan is currently undergoing an update to make sure it reflects the community's vision for Sammamish's future while aligning with state, regional, and local policies.



## Parks & Recreation

Please engage and have a say in how you play! Every 6 years, the City does an inventory of its parks system and asks the community what changes they would like to see when it comes to parks, recreation spaces, and events. This is called the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.



## Housing

The Housing Action Plan will evaluate local socioeconomic and housing conditions, identify local housing needs, and plan for how Sammamish can accommodate them. Work on this plan is currently underway and is due to be adopted in June 2023, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and ideas.



## Transit

The Transit Plan will help Sammamish achieve a multi-modal transportation system to safely and efficiently get you where you need to go. Your input will help the project team develop strategies to improve transit services in Sammamish.



## Climate Action

What can one city do to help the planet? The Climate Action Plan will identify measurable actions to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions and climate impact. The plan will be shaped by a community advisory group and will be completed by the end of 2023.



## Planning Major Parks

Beaton Hill Park and Big Rock Park South have been going through a process to set their long-term vision and guide future development, also known as a master planning process. Next up: concept design is starting soon for a new park currently referred to as the "Notch" property located within the Town Center mixed-use area.



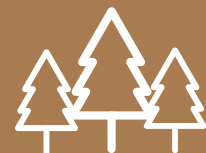
## City Finances

How does a city balance the budget? What services are important to the community? What's the right mix of revenues and expenses that will make sure that the City of Sammamish can achieve long-term financial stability? Your voice matters!



## Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Have you ever wondered how Sammamish's natural resources are protected and enhanced in the midst of growth and development? Environmentally sensitive areas are protected through the City's Critical Areas Ordinance which is undergoing an update this year. We want to hear from you!



[sammamish.us/BigIdeas](https://sammamish.us/BigIdeas)



# Plan Your Drive Using Traffic Cameras

Traffic monitoring cameras in Sammamish are now available on the City's website! There are currently eight traffic monitoring cameras at main intersections along 228th Ave NE/Sahalee Way corridor and more cameras will be added in the future.

## About the Intelligent Transportation System Project:

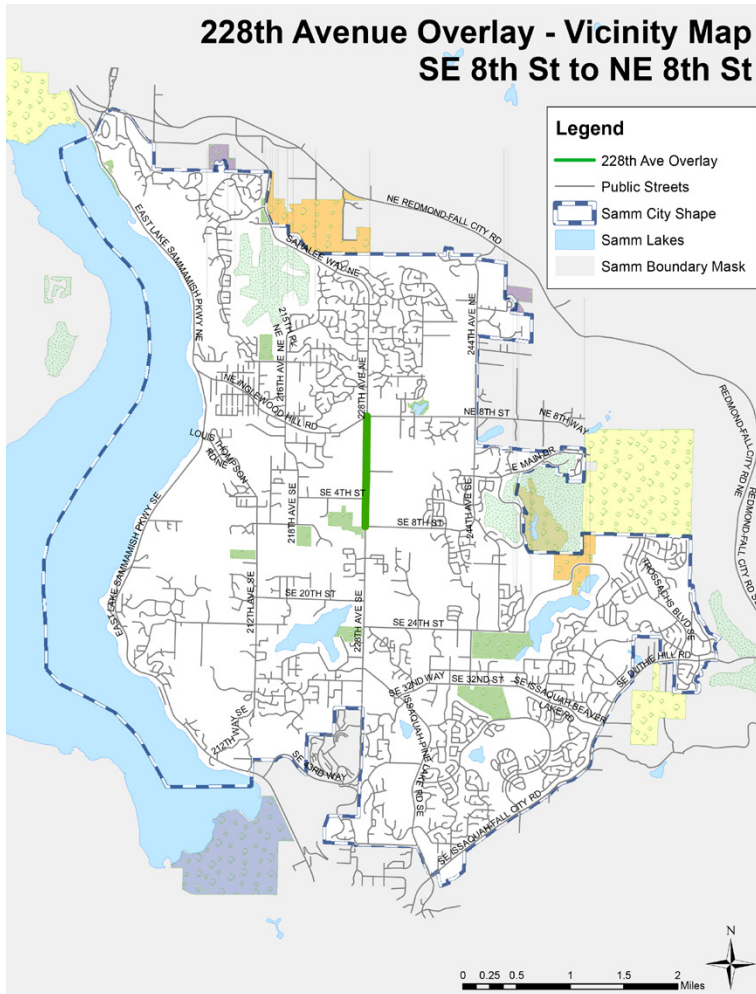
The City of Sammamish is currently in the process of implementing the third phase of a project to install traffic monitoring cameras at main intersections in the Sammamish. This project will provide a way to effectively monitor traffic conditions as well as detect and respond to traffic incidents in real time. The cameras are connected to the City's Traffic Management Center where real-time video of traffic and road conditions can be monitored by authorized City staff.

## How to Check Traffic Cameras

Before you head out, go to [sammamish.us/trafficcams](http://sammamish.us/trafficcams). Still images of road and traffic conditions, updated every three minutes, are taken from the traffic monitoring cameras and are uploaded onto the City's website. We hope this will help you plan your trip to avoid traffic, or allow extra time if roads look busy. Drive safe!



228th Avenue Overlay - Vicinity Map  
SE 8th St to NE 8th St



## Keeping Sammamish's Roads Strong and Safe

This spring, the top layer of pavement on 228th Avenue from SE 8th Street to NE 8th Street will be replaced. The major items of work include removing the top two inches of existing pavement, placing a new layer of hot-mix-asphalt pavement, and placing new pavement markings. The total cost for this project is approximately \$1.8 million, which is funded by a National Highway Performance Program federal grant.

This project will last six to eight weeks. The road will be open to traffic during construction, though lane closures and traffic shifts will be necessary to complete the work. The typical construction hours will be 9:30 am to 3:00 pm on weekdays. Flaggers and police officers will be stationed throughout the work to assist with construction traffic.

Watch for more information on the City's website and in Cone Zone updates!



Thank you to everyone in Sammamish who posted notes of gratitude on the City's social media channels during snowy times this winter. Here are just a few of the hundreds of messages we received:

*"The City of Sammamish does the best job in the area on street care in bad weather. Thanks for such a great job!"*

*"We appreciate the efforts, day and night, of the crews to keep our roads safe."*

*"Thank you for the information and the hard work on the roads! The plows have been everywhere, and we really appreciate it!"*

### How does snowplowing work in Sammamish?

Snow plowing in Sammamish is managed through a priority system. A map is available on the City's website. Crews typically work in shifts to keep plows running 24 hours a day.

# There's No Business Like Snow Business



**SAMMAMISH HAS:**  
415 lane miles of roads  
735+ cul-de-sacs  
12 snowplows  
12 sanders  
6 truck-mounted deicing tanks



## Stormwater 101

Stormwater runoff happens when rain and melted snow don't soak into the ground. As the runoff flows over land and surfaces like paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops, it collects pollutants that could negatively affect water quality if the runoff is untreated. Some pollutants like pesticides, fertilizers, oil and soap, are harmful in any quantity. Other pollutants like pet waste, grass clippings, leaves and sediment from construction, bare soil, or agricultural land can harm creeks, rivers and lakes in sufficient quantities.

### How is Stormwater runoff managed?

Preventing pollution from entering water is much more affordable than cleaning polluted water. City codes require steps to prevent erosion when there are earth disturbing activities - like construction and agriculture. There are also laws about litter, cleaning up after pets, and dumping oil or other substances into storm drains. You can help, too, by reducing pollution when caring for your car or yard, and by volunteering through the Adopt A Storm Drain program. Visit [wa.adopt-a-drain.org](http://wa.adopt-a-drain.org) for more information.

### What is the City doing?

The City of Sammamish's updated stormwater capital improvement plan includes projects for restoring and retrofitting stormwater facilities citywide. One new program in this six-year plan is a retrofit program that will expand existing facilities to increase stormwater treatment. Another is a pipe rehabilitation program that will assess pipe condition and begin repairs and replacement where needed.

Learn more at [sammamish.us/stormwater](http://sammamish.us/stormwater).







## Earth Day April 22

Please come celebrate Earth Day and learn more about the natural environment found right here in our community. This family fun event with lots of activities will be held at Beaver Lake Lodge and Park on April 22, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The City of Sammamish will be hosting several educational booths with the opportunity to build your own birdhouses. Plan to stay awhile and spend time in the petting zoo and insect-touch-and-feel activity. Of course, we will have food trucks, giveaways, scavenger hunts, and much more. All ages are welcome!



## Rig-A-Palooza May 20

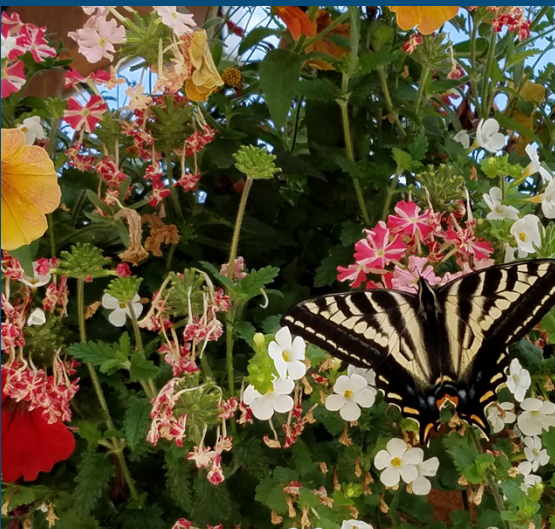
Join us on the plaza at City Hall to explore vehicles while interacting with community helpers to discover how they keep our city safe, clean, and FUN-ctioning!! Have you ever wanted to see a fire engine, garbage truck, or backhoe up close? This is your chance! The event is free and includes food trucks, bouncy houses, balloon artist, and face painting.



## Adopt a Road to Keep Our Community Clean

Volunteer to help with litter control and help promote your organization! Sections of road in Sammamish will be available for the Adopt-a-Road program this year. Organizations are assigned a section of street and agree to pick up litter at least two times a year. After a year of successful participation in the program, a sign with the organization's name is placed on their designated street. This is a great way to gather and help your immediate community. All organizations participating in the program must have proof of liability insurance. For more information, please visit the Community Involvement section of our City website.

## Spring Park Highlight: Evans Creek Preserve



Evans Creek Preserve at 4001 224th Ave NE, Redmond is a 213-acre gem of a park where visitors can appreciate diverse wetland, forest, and meadow habitats. The 3.5 miles of pedestrian-only loop trails offer a precious respite from the noise and bustle of everyday urban living. Most of the trails were built by volunteers under the supervision and support of the Washington Trails Association. During Phase I alone, volunteers contributed more than 6,500 hours over 46 work parties to build trails, puncheons, turnpikes, and enhanced wetland and stream corridors. Washington Native Plant Society Stewards and the City of Sammamish have worked hard to restore many sections of this property. Volunteers continue to plant native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials in this site after removing invasive plants. Stewards continue to monitor and manage invasive plants in the area. Look for blooming mock orange and red flowering currants along the path. Plan to visit this park throughout the year to enjoy the changing environment.



# Volunteer of the Year for 2022

Sammamish is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers whose hard work makes the city such a great place to live. At the beginning of 2023, the City of Sammamish recognized the many people who contributed their time and talents to Sammamish the previous year.

The Volunteer of the Year for 2022 is Cheryl Wagner. Cheryl has served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the past 10 years. During her tenure, she was an active participant in the master plans for Beaton Hill Park, Big Rock Park South, and Klahanie Park. She provided valuable guidance on updates to park rules and how the City should operate the unique addition of our tree house.

Cheryl is a person of action; her love of nature and passion to make a difference is a powerful combination. In 2014, Cheryl was part of the Washington Native Plant Society Stewardship program, which gave her the opportunity to restore a half acre of disturbed forest in Ebright Park. Cheryl has been dedicated to maintaining and expanding this restoration site ever since. She would frequently go out to remove invasive species and care for the native plants, all while organizing and leading volunteer groups. Her actions inspire others to be stewards of our parks, ensuring a legacy of restoration for years to come.

Cheryl is also dedicated to educating and promoting community engagement. After participating in the Steward Program, she became the Eastside Team Chair for the Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. With this role, she has brought programs to the Sammamish Library which educate residents on the importance of native plants and being good stewards of the land. She also serves on the Steering Committee of the Sammamish Stewards, which work actively to restore and foster stewardship to Sammamish parks and natural areas.

Cheryl Wagner's hard work and passion for nature has contributed to creating a beautiful community for all to enjoy. Thank you, Cheryl!

## Senior Program at Beaver Lake Lodge Starts March 2023

A new cross-cultural program specifically designed for seniors in our community is launching in early March! This no-cost, year-round program at Beaver Lake Lodge provides a space for seniors to come together, make new friends, and engage in a variety of experiences. Sammamish seniors can drop in anytime Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and enjoy activities such as exercise classes, creative arts, games, outdoor activities, music, informative workshops, and nutritious lunches. **For more information, please visit the City's website at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) or contact Rita Badh, Sr. Human Services Coordinator, at [rbadh@sammamish.us](mailto:rbadh@sammamish.us).**

## Sammamish Youth Board Applications Open

The Sammamish Youth Board is a city commission that is made up of and run by middle school and high school students who live in Sammamish. The City recognizes the value that students can bring to local government and relies on its members to address problems, concerns, and needs of the youth of Sammamish. Serving on the Youth Board is a great way to earn volunteer hours and learn about the inner workings of local government! Applications are open now for the next service year which will begin in June of 2023 and run through May of 2024. Apply online at on the City of Sammamish website. **For questions, contact Janie Walzer, Youth Board staff liaison, at [jwalzer@sammamish.us](mailto:jwalzer@sammamish.us).**



# 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](http://sammamish.us/citycouncil). To contact the Sammamish City Council, email [citycouncil@sammamish.us](mailto: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](http://sammamish.us/planningcommission). To contact the Sammamish Planning Commission, email [planningcommission@sammamish.us](mailto: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 all at [www.sammamishwa.civicweb.net](http://www.sammamishwa.civicweb.net)

## City Newsletter

What do you think of the new newsletter design? For questions or suggestions, email: [communications@sammamish.us](mailto:communications@sammamish.us)

## Follow City of Sammamish on Social Media



# 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](mailto:communityvan@sammamish.us)



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# Meet Sammamish's Chief of Police!

## Chief Steve Lysaght



Chief Steve Lysaght became Sammamish's Chief of Police in September 2022. Before that, he worked for the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for twenty years and previously served as an officer for the Colorado State University Police Department.

Chief Lysaght holds degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice from Colorado State University, and taught Community-Police Relations for two years at Highline Community College. In addition, Steve has worked in the city of Sammamish for the past ten years as the Director of Public Safety of the Klahanie Homeowner's Association. He loves living in the great Pacific Northwest with his family and is proud to serve the Sammamish community in his role as Chief of Police.

## Report an Issue

With the My Sammamish App

Have an issue or concern? Report it on My Sammamish! Download the app on your smartphone. For more information, go to [sammamish.us/mysammamish](http://sammamish.us/mysammamish)

