

SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish



Photo Courtesy of Sammamish Resident, Melanie Kelsey

Neighbors and Friends,

We are starting to see warmer and longer spring days in Sammamish, and last month, we made great progress in our recovery efforts from the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. Thanks to a partnership between Snoqualmie Tribe, Eastside Fire & Rescue, the City of Issaquah and the City of Sammamish, a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination site opened on April 12 at Lake Sammamish State Park. We had been waiting for a vaccine supply to distribute to our residents and this vaccination site was made possible due to the great generosity of the Snoqualmie Tribe providing vaccines for communities on ancestral land. We are grateful for the Snoqualmie Tribe and our partnership. Get more details on the partnership and scheduling an appointment on page 4.

I'm also very pleased to announce the opening of Issaquah Fall City Road on April 16 with significant improvements benefitting both residents and our natural environment. Traffic flow has greatly improved with the addition of three roundabouts, a divided median and bike lines. There's also a new bridge over the wetlands designed to stop environmental destruction and restore a natural habitat corridor. There are also much-needed sidewalks for pedestrian safety; especially for kids walking to nearby Pacific Cascade Middle School.

I also want to provide an update on Town Center Phase 1, SW Quadrant. In December of last year, STCA, LLC filed an appeal with the City of Sammamish Hearing Examiner to reverse the City's denial of their land use application. The Hearing Examiner agreed with the City that STCA LLC's arguments around moratoria and concurrency should be stricken from the appeal. Should STCA, LLC continue to pursue its appeal, they will need to demonstrate how their application met, or did not meet, the municipal codes and ordinances the City's Department of Community Development is responsible for upholding.

As always, keep sharing your thoughts and suggestions.

Mayor Karen Moran



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Reduce Pollutants and Keep Our Lakes Healthy

Contributed by Lisa Werre, Stormwater Engineering Technician with the City of Sammamish's Public Works Department

Water quality is primarily dependent on what happens on the land around the lake or along streams and wetland within its watershed, the area of land that drains to a particular waterbody. The runoff from the land, and the pollution that is carried with it, determine the quality of the lake.

Managing water quality means appropriately managing the land use around the lake to reduce the amount of pollution that enters the lake. Excessive phosphorus can get into lakes in a number of ways, including:

- Excessive application to and runoff from lawns
- Decomposition of leaves and other plant material
- Erosion of soil, which has phosphorus particles attached to it
- Improper human and pet waste management, both of which contain high amounts of phosphorus
- Use of household products high in phosphorus

When shopping for fertilizer, buy a brand that has a middle number of zero i.e. 22-0-15.

Locate fire pits away from shore and dispose of ash.

The leftover ash from burning wood is very high in phosphorus. Locate the fire pit at least 50 feet away from the lake; and remove ashes from the fire pit that could blow into waterway.

Pick up pet waste.

Improper disposal of pet waste not only jeopardizes water quality, but your health as well. Pet waste contains phosphorus and may contain disease causing organisms, which, if washed into the water, can make it unsafe for swimming. Pick up pet waste in the yard or near the shore and dispose of it properly.

Use herbicides/pesticides sparingly or not at all.

- Keep lawn healthy to avoid the need for herbicide applications
- When necessary, use the least toxic and most degradable herbicide and follow directions carefully
- Remove dandelions and other unwanted plants from your lawn using hand-tools instead of chemical applications. If you feel you must use a herbicide for control, do not apply it to the whole lawn. Instead, use an applicator which allows you to direct a small spray towards each unwanted plant
- Identify the pest and learn about the best way to control it; there are many manual methods of control other than pesticides

Do not dump yard waste.

Grass clipping, leaves, and aquatic plant material that wash up on shore all contain phosphorus, which is released when the plant material decomposes. To prevent phosphorus from getting into the lake:

- Use a mulching lawn mower and leave grass clippings on the lawn as natural fertilizer
- Collect and compost leaves and clippings or haul them away from the lake to a disposal site
- Rake up aquatic plants, leaves, and other organic matter on the shore and dispose of away from the lake
- Do not burn leaves near the lake; it destroys the organic matter releasing the phosphorus, which could then be washed into the lake

For more information on how to keep our local waters healthy and clean, visit

connect.sammamish.us/kokanee.

Issaquah-Fall City Road Reopened on April 16

The City of Sammamish has completed improvements to Issaquah-Fall City Road between 242nd Ave SE and SE Issaquah-Beaver Lake Road, a main corridor to the Klahanie community and other adjacent neighborhoods.

Issaquah Fall City Road Phase 1 improvements between 242nd Ave SE and SE Issaquah-Beaver Lake Road are complete and the road reopened on April 16. The improvements are designed to reduce traffic congestion, provide dedicated space for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve overall safety. With over 23,000 cars per day traveling through this corridor and few alternate routes, the old two-lane roadway was in desperate need of an upgrade. Key features of the improvements include roundabouts at major intersections to keep vehicles moving, a bridge over wetlands and the North Fork of Issaquah Creek, and a new pedestrian entrance to the Pacific Cascade Middle School.

Improving Traffic Flow

Roundabouts have been constructed at 242nd Avenue SE, 247th Place SE and Klahanie Drive SE. These roundabouts allow traffic to move more efficiently through the corridor than conventional signalized intersections and minimize the roadway footprint by eliminating the need for a left turn lane. The divided median combined with the roundabouts have the added safety benefit of buffered bike lanes and elimination of left turns at driveways and residential streets which are one of the most hazardous vehicle maneuvers to make on a large arterial roadway.

Bridging the Environment

While it is unfortunate that some trees had to be removed to make space for this community roadway, the project made significant environmental improvements by constructing a bridge over a large wetland and the Issaquah Creek North Fork.

The bridge eliminates the need for a stream culvert, avoided destruction of wetlands, and restored a significant natural habit corridor. The bridge provides an added benefit of raising the sag vertical curve to improve driver sight lines and eliminate the low spot in the roadway that habitually stranded cars in winter snowstorms.

Providing Space to Walk

Much needed sidewalks have replaced the “goat” trails that bounded the roadway. These sidewalks provide residents in the small neighborhoods along the corridor with the option to go for a walk instead of a drive. A new pedestrian route has been built to provide better access to parents and students who walk to Pacific Cascade Middle School.

For complete project details, photos, and ceremonial ribbon cutting video with community acknowledgements, visit connect.sammamish.us/ifcr-project-look-ahead



COVID-19 Vaccines Arrive for Eastside Residents

Snoqualmie Tribe Vaccine Partnership supplies the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for anyone over the age of 18.



The cities of Issaquah and Sammamish with Eastside Fire & Rescue have been working together for the past few months to bring COVID-19 vaccinations to East King County residents. Now, the establishment of the first community-based mass vaccination site on the Eastside is made possible through a partnership with the Snoqualmie Tribe. As a sovereign nation, the Snoqualmie Tribe is providing the vaccine necessary to turn the planned the mass vaccination site at Lake Sammamish State Park into a reality.

The Snoqualmie Tribe's Vaccine Clinic, which first opened on the Snoqualmie Tribal Reservation in February, is now operating at the Lake Sammamish State Park site as of April 12, 2021.

Vaccines are available to individuals with an appointment only. Individuals must meet the current vaccine eligibility requirements as defined by Washington State Department of Health.

Snoqualmie Tribal Members, Tribal Staff, and members of their household will continue to be eligible for appointments at the new clinic location. The mobile vaccination unit operated by Eastside Fire & Rescue will still be making visits to senior citizens and other vulnerable populations who may not be able to access the vaccination site.

Learn More and Schedule an Appointment

The mass vaccination site will be administered by Eastside Fire & Rescue personnel and trained volunteers and will follow all COVID-19 guidelines and protocols. The site is designed to accommodate two rows of cars with the potential of vaccinating up to 600 persons a day, depending on vaccine supply. There will be no walk-up or waitlists available at the site. More information, including appointments, eligibility, and how to volunteer is available at www.snoqualmievaccine.snoqualmietribeweb.us.

Snoqualmie Tribe's Ancestral Lands

Since launching the Snoqualmie Tribe Vaccination Clinic, members of the public have inquired about how to support the Snoqualmie Tribe. For 10 things you can do to support the Tribe, visit www.snoqualmievaccine.snoqualmietribeweb.us/10-things.



"The Snoqualmie Tribe is proud to be able to provide these vaccines to individuals living in the Snoqualmie Tribe's ancestral lands. In the 1860's, the Snoqualmie people and other Northwest Natives experienced great loss as white settlers adopted a smallpox vaccine policy that discriminated against Natives," said Robert De Los Angeles, Snoqualmie Tribal Chairman. "Now, the Snoqualmie Tribe is exercising sovereignty through our Tribal values by caring for the people and communities living on our ancestral lands 160 years later during the COVID-19 pandemic."



"Our commitment from Sammamish is to continue the respectful partnership between our city and the Snoqualmie Tribe. We want to honor what the Snoqualmie Tribe has brought to our communities, not only in the form of vaccines, but also your culture, your history, your legacy, and your lands. We are so grateful to the Snoqualmie Tribe for this partnership, it will truly help save lives," said Mayor Karen Moran of the City of Sammamish.



"Eastside Fire & Rescue has been working with the Snoqualmie Tribe since 2015, when the Tribe contracted EF&R to provide fire and EMS services on the Snoqualmie Reservation. It is an honor to be able to partner with the Tribe on vaccination efforts for their community and now the broader Eastside," said Fire Chief Jeff Clark.



About the Snoqualmie Tribe

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is a federally recognized tribe in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. Known as the People of the Moon, Snoqualmie were signatories to the Treaty of Point Elliott in 1855, which reserved Native American Tribes in the Puget Sound area the right to hunt, fish, and live in the places they had done so since time immemorial. Today, Snoqualmie Tribal Members live throughout their ancestral lands and beyond.

Tribal enterprises provide over 1,700 jobs in the Snoqualmie Valley, and the Snoqualmie Tribe has donated more than \$10 million to nonprofit organizations in Washington State since 2010. The Snoqualmie Tribe owns the Snoqualmie Casino, Crescent Market, Eighth Generation, and the Salish Lodge, which employ approximately 1700 people.



Bellflower Apple Kicks off Heritage Garden Planting

Article provided by Sammamish Botanical Garden Society. They are seeking volunteers to help with planting underway. For more information, visit www.sammamishbotanical.org.

The Sammamish Botanical Garden Society (SBGS) kicked off a new 6,000 square-foot Heritage Garden at Big Rock Park Central in Sammamish with the installation of an heirloom Yellow Bellflower. The Bellflower is a variety of Pippin apple that was a popular orchard tree in the 1800s.

Grafting Tree Gifting

The tree was donated by Bill and Nancy Way of Sammamish. It is a grafting from a 120-year-old tree in their garden, originally planted on Lake Sammamish when Weber Point was a lumber and shake mill.

The Ways believe it was serendipity that their grafting tree needed a permanent home at the same time the Heritage Garden was coming to life. "We are thrilled that the genetic material of our Bellflower will be saved in the Heritage Garden," said Nancy Way, a Sammamish Parks & Recreation Commission member.

The Sammamish Botanical Garden Society has now signed an agreement with the City of Sammamish for the design, installation and maintenance of the Heritage Garden. Members have been gathering other heirloom specimens and seeds for planting.



Left to right: Shelby Perrault - Parks Project Manager, Nancy Way - Parks & Recreation Commission, and SBGS Board Members, Bruce Caredio, Janelle Deutsch, Rebecca Krum, and Lena Wagner

Upcoming Community Events by City of Sammamish

While large outdoor events are uncertain due to COVID restrictions and guidance, the City will continue to offer a variety of limited contact and virtual events. Updates will be posted at www.sammamish.us/events.

"Sammamish Will Always Be Home"

How did Tent City 4 come to make Sammamish their home for these past 15 months? View an interview with TC4 Resident, Sam Roberson at www.youtube.com/c/Sammamish.

This was not the first time that Tent City 4 has been in Sammamish, but it was their longest stay. This time, the temporary homeless encampment was permitted to set up at Mary Queen of Peace beginning in January 2020. As required by municipal code, the encampment was supposed to move at the end of 120 days to their next location. Then, COVID-19 struck and the options Tent City 4 had identified became unavailable due to closures.

Sammamish City Council Grants Extensions

City staff cannot administratively increase the duration of such a permit beyond 120 days. This is when City Council stepped in – not once, or twice, but FIVE times – unanimously granting 30-day extensions of Tent City 4's temporary homeless encampment permit at Mary Queen of Peace.

"It was very important to Council, City staff, and the host faith organizations that during this period of uncertainty, they had someplace they could call home," said Rita Badh, Senior Human Services Coordinator for the City of Sammamish. "The people of Tent City 4 were overwhelmed by the generosity of residents that answered appeals for blankets and hand warmers when it got cold. Our community is a very giving community, and the folks of Tent City 4 were model residents. When they received too much food, which was often, they in turn would donate it to food banks. Nothing went to waste."

After holding two public hearings, the City Council once again unanimously voted for an Emergency Ordinance, which enabled Tent City 4 to move to Faith United Methodist Church in November 2020. The plan was to move to Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue by March 31, 2021.

"We then heard from the City of Bellevue staff that the permit for the Temple B'nai Torah location would likely not be issued by March 31. So we worked to get another Emergency Ordinance issued," explained David Pyle, Director of Community Development at the City. He continued, "We extended the Tent City 4 permit at Faith United Method Church so that the camp would only need to vacate within five days of receiving the Bellevue permit. It was passed unanimously by City Council."

After making Sammamish home for 15 months, the camp moved to Bellevue on April 9, 2021.

"It's bittersweet. We love the people here. But in Bellevue, we're closer to transit for people to get to work, to doctor's appointments," said resident Sam Roberson. "This encampment likes to give back. We participated in a program with Mary Queen of Peace where we helped mow lawns of elderly homeowners. We want to be good neighbors. We got so much abundance from you loving people, who welcomed us during these times of COVID with hearts and arms. Sammamish is our first home. Thank you to Sammamish for being there for us."





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Police Non-Emergency
(206) 296-3311

Eastside Fire & Rescue
(425) 313-3200

King County Sheriff
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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
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(425) 392-6256

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