

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 178

CITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

## New community survey results!

**RESIDENTS LIKE CITY, BUT ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT GROWTH IMPACTS**

After noting that 90 percent of the respondents to a community survey rated Sammamish's "overall quality of life" as excellent or good, Communications Manager Tim Larson, in a March 21 presentation to the City Council, cautioned that some of the other numbers were a bit more worrisome.

For example, only 54 percent rated the "ease of travel by car" positively, and only 47 percent rated the city's preservation of open space as excellent or good.

After reviewing the results of the latest survey, City Manager Lyman Howard said it's clear that the uptick in new development prompted by an improved economy is having a significant impact on how residents feel about their community.

"These survey results track very closely with the sentiments we heard at our public roundtable and Virtual

*See SURVEY, pg. 4*



*As the City Council looks on, City Manager Lyman Howard (left) shakes hands with Central Washington University President James Gaudino after signing the lease agreement.*

## Central Washington University will open Sammamish campus in September

**CLASSES TO BEGIN THIS FALL IN FORMER MARS HILL CHURCH**

When the City Council voted unanimously in March of 2015 to purchase the old Mars Hill Church, the intent was to provide a generous space for an institution of higher education.

That vision came true at the March 22 City Council meeting when City Manager Lyman Howard and Central Washington University President

James Gaudino signed a lease and operating agreement that calls for the following:

- An initial lease of three years, with options for multiple 5-year extensions.
- Central Washington University (CWU) will begin teaching college

*See UNIVERSITY, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**FINANCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

*Story on page 3*

**EARTH DAY**

*Story on page 8*

# There's a chill in the nation's capital

Spring came early to Washington, D.C., this year with the cherry blossoms getting ready to burst forth in early March. Then about 100 municipal electeds from Washington State descended on the nation's Capital, only to find a very chilly reception.

I am not talking about the nor'easter that brought snow to D.C. on the Ides of March and destroyed much of the cherry blossom crop, but rather the dark cloud of pending doom that permeated the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. I attended the conference along with Councilmembers Tom Odell and Ramiro Valderrama.

In past years this NLC Conference received a warm reception in Washington D.C., with perhaps the President or the First Lady, or a plethora of cabinet members, addressing some two or three thousand electeds from throughout the United States.

This year U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions was scheduled to address the conference, but he was a no show, as was the scheduled U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin.

We did hear from Scott Pruitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, who briefly talked about EPA objectives. One is the need to achieve remediation to repopulate the 1,300 superfund areas across the country. Secondly, it is important for the federal government to continue to fund brownfield projects. He also reminded us that some \$4 billion of the \$8 billion EPA budget goes to grants for such proj-

ects as improving water infrastructure to assure safe water to all citizens, and for attaining air pollution standards.

He said that the EPA must embrace a pro-growth and pro-natural resources attitude, and reminded us that infrastructure is more than roads and bridges. This all sounded encouraging, but not congruent with the president's budget announced the next day which would cut the agency's budget by 31%,



*Mayor Don Gerend with  
Congressman Dave Reichert*

and with the House taking steps to abolish the agency entirely.

The 19,000 or so cities and towns represent some 86% of the nation's population with about 78% of the road miles, 50% of the bridges and 95% of the water infrastructure.

Federal policies get implemented locally and we need federal financial and regulatory support to get the job done. So we were back in D.C. telling the Federal Communications Commission that we need to retain authority over our right of ways; for example, deciding locally where cell towers go and how the industry could best serve our residents.

With all infrastructure nationwide experiencing increased deferred maintenance, we expressed concerns for the bridges and highways of America and how this infrastructure deficit should be resolved. Long-term funding for transportation infrastructure is still unknown as the reliance on federal gas tax will go away.

Protection of the municipal bond tax exemption status and the need for taxation of internet sales were two of the priorities that we expressed to our members of Congress.

Our Senators Murray and Cantwell acknowledged our concerns about the crisis in affordable housing and the opioid epidemic.

Of course, we mentioned that Sammamish is perhaps the largest city in the nation without a post office. Representative Reichert said that he would write yet another letter to the Post Office, and Senator Murray's office expressed a desire to coordinate with Representative Reichert on this issue.

But based on past history, and the current chill, I couldn't help thinking about the dead letter office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Gerend".

## Community roundtable on city's finances set for April 27

Residents eager to weigh in on city finances will have plenty of opportunities to do so over the next three months. Please see the box on the right for the highlights.

The city's "kitchen table conversation" about money will begin on April 27, 5-7 p.m., at City Hall. That's when a "community roundtable" on finances will be held.

The goal is to inform residents on the issues, gather as much public input as possible, and then make the necessary choices to keep the city on a sound financial footing.

**Community Roundtable on Finances,  
April 27, 5-7 p.m., at City Hall**

**Virtual Town Hall on Finances in May  
(Start day to be announced)**

**City Council Financial Retreat (Open to the public)  
June 29, 2-4 p.m., at City Hall**

**Note: Keep an eye out for the Budget in Brief  
in the city's May newsletter!**

### *UNIVERSITY, cont. from pg. 3*

courses in Sammamish no later than September of this year.

- CWU will pay for all tenant improvements and lease the building "as-is."

- CWU will have a right to purchase the building at a price that would recover all city investments in the building.

- For the first three years of the lease, the annual base rent will be \$60,000.

- After three years, the base rent will rise a minimum of \$60,000 annually.

- If, in the third year, however, CWU's yearly operating margin exceeds \$500,000, the base rent going forward will rise \$120,000 annually.

The signing took place shortly after the City Council voted to authorize the city manager to execute the agreement.

"I think this is a legacy moment for our City Council, and for the city staffers who had to grind through all the details to get this deal done," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "I know the Council was very excited about the prospect of higher education when we bought the building back in 2015.

"And now, I think the community is equally excited that we're going to have a college campus opening in Sammamish this fall."

With three high schools (Eastlake,



*The future "CWU-Sammamish" campus at 120 228th Ave. N.E.*

Eastside Catholic and Skyline) within walking distance of the building (120 228th Ave. N.E.), CWU's Sammamish campus will be well positioned to provide "Running Start" classes, a program of college courses

for high school students.

Over time, it will also provide continuing education for adults, professional certifications, and coursework for baccalaureate or master's degrees.

The city bought the two-story, 30,807-square-foot building and 22-acre parcel for \$6.2 million. Although the city has fielded a number of inquiries from potential buyers over the past two years, the majority of the City Council remained committed to the goal of higher education.

"We had to remain patient when a couple of our initial college options fell through," Howard said. "But in the end, I think our partnership with CWU is going to work out great.

"They've been terrific to work with, and we're anticipating many years of success together."



*CWU Trustees meet with city officials inside the spacious interior of the former Mars Hill Church in October.*

## *SURVEY, cont. from pg. 1*

Town Hall on growth back in September and October,” Howard said. “And that includes the feeling by some that an increase in tax revenues might be a good idea if it helped us build roads more quickly.”

The statistically valid survey was conducted between Nov. 28 and Jan. 9 by N-R-C (National Research Center), a firm based in Boulder, Colo., that does surveys across the country.

Sammamish’s results were benchmarked against more than 500 other cities from coast to coast, and 23 cities in Washington state.

The survey documents, which were mailed to 2,200 addresses in Sammamish, drew responses from 641 residents, a number that produces a 4 percent margin of error. Although recipients were given the option of taking the same survey online, 535 filled out and mailed back the paper version.

A summary of survey outcomes is listed below. To see all the survey documents and a comprehensive display of the results, including benchmark comparisons, go to [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us).

- 64 percent said they would strongly or somewhat support raising taxes if it allowed the city to more quickly build new roads and improve existing roads.
- 86 percent said they would strongly support or somewhat support using tax revenue to buy land, preserve trees and protect open spaces.
- 96 percent rated the city’s fire services as excellent or good.
- 95 percent rated the overall feeling of safety as excellent or good.
- 94 percent rated the city as an excellent or good place to raise children.
- 93 percent rated the city as an excellent or good place to live.
- 92 percent rated K-12 education as

excellent or good.

- 90 percent rated the overall quality of life in the city as excellent or good.
- 91 percent rated the city’s parks as excellent or good.
- 88 percent rated the city’s police services as excellent or good.
- 88 percent were very likely or somewhat likely to recommend Sammamish as a place to live.
- 81 percent rated overall customer service by city employees as excellent or good.
- 77 percent rated the acceptance of people from diverse backgrounds as excellent or good.
- 76 percent rated the city’s public information services as excellent or good.
- 67 percent rated traffic enforcement as excellent or good.
- 64 percent rated the city’s honesty as excellent or good.
- 54 percent rated ease of travel by car as excellent or good.
- 47 percent rated preservation of open space, farmlands and greenbelts as excellent or good.
- 46 percent rated the overall direction of the city as excellent or good.
- 39 percent rated the quality of new development as excellent or good.
- 36 percent rated shopping opportunities as excellent or good.
- 34 percent rated traffic flow on major streets as excellent or good.
- 28 percent rated land use, planning and zoning as excellent or good.
- 26 percent rated bus service in the city as excellent or good.
- 23 percent rated the availability of affordable housing as excellent or good.

Benchmarked against 500 plus cities across the country, Sammamish outperformed the benchmark in these areas:

- Overall feeling of safety
- Cleanliness

- Air quality
- Overall economic health
- K-12 education
- Openness and acceptance
- Sidewalk maintenance
- Drinking water
- City parks

The city underperformed against the national benchmark in these areas:

- Overall ease of travel
- Travel by public transportation
- Traffic flow
- Quality of new development
- Affordable housing
- Shopping opportunities
- Natural areas preservation
- Land use, planning and zoning

Benchmarked against Washington cities, here’s how Sammamish ranked:

- 1st out of 12 in openness and acceptance of people from diverse backgrounds.
- 1st out of 13 for public information services.
- 1st out of 14 for police services.
- 2nd out of 14 for traffic enforcement.
- 3rd out of 17 for services provided by the city.
- 7th out of 11 on having a vibrant downtown and commercial area.
- 8th out of 14 on the overall direction of the city.
- 10th out of 12 for traffic flow on major streets.

In a section on bus services, the survey drew these responses:

- 77 percent said they would strongly or somewhat support a town bus circulating around the city.
- 91 percent said they would strongly or somewhat support express service to commuter hubs in Bellevue and Seattle.
- 77 percent strongly or somewhat supported more park-n-rides.

## The Sammamish Town Center opens for business!

### METROPOLITAN MARKET GRAND OPENING ON MARCH 22 INAUGURATES NEW ERA

When resident volunteers began creating a Town Center vision more than 12 years ago, they saw homes, offices, public spaces and a lot of cash registers.

That last category came to life shortly after 9 a.m. on March 22 when Metropolitan Market held its grand opening and began exchanging groceries for money.

“The community wanted a mixed-use environment, and that’s what we’re seeing,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “We’re going to have town homes, apartments, office space and more retail coming online very soon.”

The 240-acre planning area in the geographical center of the city will also be pedestrian friendly and feature public spaces, trails and bicycle pathways.



*Inside Metropolitan Market on opening day, March 22.*



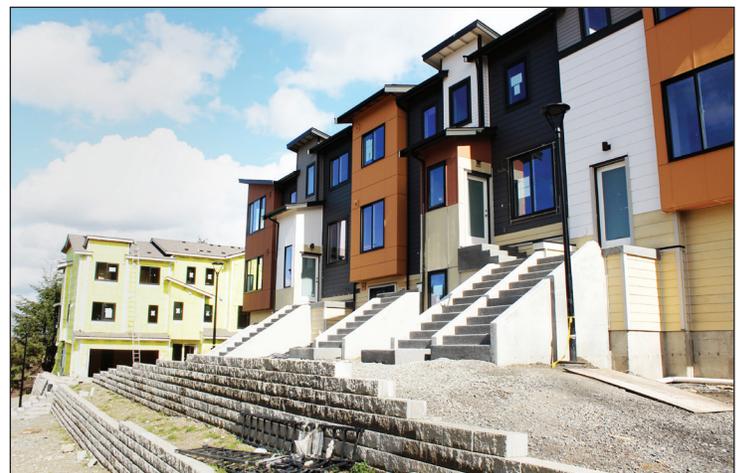
*Metropolitan Market is an anchor tenant in TRF Pacific's Sammamish Village at 228th Ave. and S.E. Fourth Street.*



*Just up the hill from the grocery store on S.E. Fourth Street, Sammamish Village's office space takes shape.*



*Plateau 120, an apartment building featuring more than 14,000 square feet of commercial space, goes up at 228th Ave. and S.E. 1st St.*



*Sammamish Town Homes, at 524 228th Ave. S.E., will include 13 live/work units among its 75 residential townhomes.*

## Grant funds tree canopy study

The city of Sammamish has received a \$15,000 grant to support a canopy cover assessment, a first step in creating the city's first-ever Urban Forest Management Plan.

The grant funds will be provided by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, administered through the Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The purpose of the canopy cover assessment project is to collect and analyze accurate information about the city's urban forest cover, which will be synthesized with other data and used to produce goals and policies to protect, support, and maintain the city's urban forest.

The Planning Commission will hold a special joint meeting with the Parks Commission on April 6 to discuss the plan. This will be followed by a joint study session with the Planning Commission, Parks Commission, and City Council on May 9 to discuss the scope of work for the plan.

There will be extensive opportunities for public participation. Please check the city's website ([www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us)) for announcements and other information.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Puget Sound Starts Here!!!

The city of Sammamish is teaming up with hundreds of organizations across Puget Sound to challenge residents to commit to at least one "Sound-healthy action" during May's Puget Sound Starts Here Month.

Here are some simple Sound-healthy actions you can take:

- Volunteer to help with local habitat restoration projects.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash instead of washing it in your driveway.
- Fix auto leaks right away and take any used fluids to a recycling center.
- Pick up pet waste and place it in the trash.
- Maintain your septic system or side sewer.
- Never dump anything – liquid or solid – into a storm drain or drainage ditch.
- Store and dispose of household chemicals according to the instructions on the label.
- Landscape your yard with native plants and trees that soak up rain and slow the flow of runoff.

And don't forget "Puget Sound Starts Here" night at the Mariners on May 21. Discount tickets are available at [www.mariners.com/pugetsound](http://www.mariners.com/pugetsound). You can also go to [www.puget-soundstartshere.org](http://www.puget-soundstartshere.org) to find other ways to help!

## Damaged clothes aren't garbage anymore – please donate!

Do you toss damaged clothes, shoes and household linens into the trash because you think they can't be donated?

We've got great news: Clothes and linens that aren't reusable can be recycled into industrial wiping cloths, sound-proofing, home insulation and more.

So, along with reusable clothes, gather up your mismatched socks, ripped t-shirts, and faded old sheets

and bring them to a local donation location.

Why should you give all clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling? Because donating these items will help keep them out of the landfill!

Many thrift stores, drop boxes and others accept all your items in any condition. In the past, only "gently used" items could be accepted. But markets have changed, and partners of the

Threadcycle campaign (sponsored by King County and Seattle Public Utilities) all take items that are stained, holey or damaged, as long as they are not wet, mildewed or contaminated with hazardous materials.

For more information about where you can give your clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling, check out the Threadcycle website at [kingcounty.gov/threadcycle](http://kingcounty.gov/threadcycle).

### Worse for wear is still good to give.

Give clothes here \_\_\_\_\_



Paid for by

**Threadcycle**



# CITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

*Sunday, April 9*

-Spring Recycling Event, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Eastlake High School

*Tuesday, April 11*

-City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, April 12*

-Human Services Comte Mtg, 1:30 p.m.

*Saturday, April 15*

-Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m.-noon  
City Hall Plaza

*Tuesday, April 18*

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, April 19*

-Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

*Thursday, April 20*

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, April 22*

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.  
City Hall

*Monday, April 24*

-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, April 25*

-Public Meeting with King County on  
E. Lake Sammamish Trail, 6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, April 27*

-Public Roundtable on City Finances  
5-7 p.m.

## MAY

*Monday, May 1*

-City Council Study Session, 4:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, May 2*

-City Council Office Hour, 5 p.m.  
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 3*

-Parks & Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, May 6*

-Au-Some Artists Movin' and Groovin'  
1-3 p.m.

*Tuesday, May 9*

-City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 10*

-Human Services Task Force Mtg, 1:30 p.m.  
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, May 11*

-Land Acquisition Public Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, May 16*

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 17*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Thursday, May 18*

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, May 20*

-Rig-a-Palooza, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

*Monday, May 22*

-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, May 23*

-PRO Plan Public Mtg, 6-8 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 24*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 31*

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

### PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings and events at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

11th Annual

# Sammamish ARTS Fair

fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application deadline May 29th 2017

Fair dates: September 23rd & 24th, 2017

Sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission

For more information: [www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com](http://www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com)

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Bob Keller  
Deputy Mayor*



*Tom Hornish  
Councilmember*



*Kathy Huckabay  
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow  
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell  
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama  
Councilmember*

# Earth Day!

**Saturday, April 22 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
City Hall Plaza – 801 228th Ave. S.E.**

Learn about the environment and the many ways you can have a positive impact on your natural surroundings! Come join in the fun at City Hall Plaza, where vendor booths, a food truck, informational classes and live music will make this a very special day in Sammamish – and on Planet Earth!

- Get your hands dirty by signing up for the volunteer project in the Lower Commons.
- Sign up for guided tours hosted by Sammamish Walks and the city's Senior Stormwater Program Manager.

To sign up, go to "Upcoming Events" at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us).

## CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Lyman Howard	City Manager
Jessi Bon	Deputy City Manager
Aaron Antin	Finance Director
Angela Feser	Parks & Rec Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Steve Leniszewski	Public Works Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Michelle Bennett	Police Chief
Jeff Clark	Fire Chief

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?**  
Contact Communications Mgr **Tim Larson**  
425-295-0555, [tlarson@sammamish.us](mailto:tlarson@sammamish.us)