

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 184

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2017

A new 'Lean' machine CITY'S PERMITTING PROCESSES GET RENOWNED-EFFICIENCY MAKEOVER

Time and money—who couldn't use more? The City of Sammamish is finding ways to recoup both for residents by streamlining certain key processes using a renowned efficiency model.

In early spring, Public Works and Community Development staff committed to a Lean work philosophy and accompanying training. A well-known corporate concept, a Lean Organization is one that continually strives to create more value for customers with fewer resources. This is usually accomplished by systematically taking bite-sized chunks of critical processes and overhauling them to improve productivity and quality; just as importantly, all involved employees—especially those who are on the frontlines—participate to get solutions that work.

"We are a young city, and it's time

to take a second look at our processes," said Kellye Hilde, Planning Manager for Community Development, who has been overseeing the city's Lean efforts. "With these processes, we are functioning well, but we are going to keep working at them until we are a well-oiled machine."

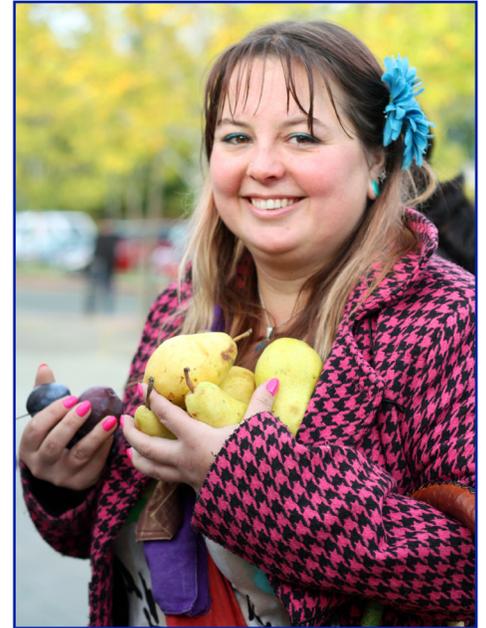
First up for Sammamish: Tackling the bonding process. This is the part of a development application where the applicant guarantees they have financial backing to complete their project if something goes awry midway. In April, five staff members representing Public Works, Community Development, and Finance spent two days together using an intensely focused method (called the kaizen method) to identify

STREAMLINED BONDING PROCESS

- **161:** Minimum number of staff hours expected to be recouped annually.
- **\$9,000:** Minimum expected annual savings.

Stay tuned as more of our public processes undergo efficiency transformations.

See LEAN, page 4



Michelle Dias took full advantage of the final Sammamish Farmers Market Sept. 20.

Fall Festivities



Jason Michael Rhinevault displayed his intricate metal sculptures at the annual Sammamish Art Fair in September.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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TRAFFIC SAFETY EMPHASIS

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SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

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Sammamish, embrace your wild side!

Traffic and development—we on the City Council spend quite a bit of time talking about these local hot topics. I suspect you do as well, especially since school buses and blustery fall weather have returned to complicate already rather-complicated commute patterns. That's why we've made traffic congestion our number-one priority. We're committed



Mayor Bob Keller

to getting things moving. All this focus on growth and gridlock, however, serves to emphasize our city's enduring greenspaces. It may seem counterintuitive, but they're two sides of the same coin. Sammamish's Comprehensive Plan, our guiding document, deliberately channels density into core urban areas such as the up-and-coming Town Center. The result is naturally defined and protected open-space areas that will stay that way. As Mayor and Councilmembers, we want you to know that's one of our unwavering values; even as we continually seek to understand and represent the many

viewpoints about how/where development should occur in Sammamish, we do so with an appreciation for what that puts into relief: Trees, open space, and wildlife habitats are one of the most distinctive, defining characteristics of our city.

Did you know that we have 800 acres of wetlands, 30 miles of streams, 14 sub-basins, and three large-lake ecosystems in Sammamish? Our city is crisscrossed by open space that by virtue of topography (ravines, marshes, steep grades, critical areas...)—not to mention intentional regulation—literally shape and limit sprawl. We cohabitate with wildlife, much more than most cities, because our ideal homes are in each other's backyards. Deer, beaver, coyotes, eagles, raccoons, owls, woodpeckers, humans—we are all here to stay.

Hopefully this news is as welcome to you as it is to me. It's such a gift, when the hustle and bustle of 228th Avenue gets to be too much, to escape just blocks away into the majestic Hazel Wolf Wetlands. Further to the north, viewing the open vista of miles and miles of treetop canopies at Evans Creek Preserve is like watching a highlight reel of the best of the Pacific Northwest, all within or connected to our own city. We have similar natural

gems tucked in throughout Sammamish, waiting for you to explore your wild side.

Better yet! Look in your backyard. The Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat organization has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to provide short how-to videos on creating backyard wildlife habitats and pollinator pathways on your own property. You can find them at sammamishcommunitywildlifehabitat.org along with a Sammamish Certified Habitats Map and other resources. At the city-level, we've made habitat conservation a priority, and you can at the individual level, too.

It's an honor to live and serve in a city where we have one foot rooted in vibrant, urban community spaces and one foot rooted in peaceful, pristine greenspaces. We on the City Council are constantly seeking a balance, and we rely on you to guide the vision and specifics. Please engage with us, in person or via email or phone, as we continue to study traffic congestion as the top agenda item at each meeting; we will also tackle topics such as the Urban Forestry Management Plan and Interim Development Regulations in coming months.

In the meantime, I'll see you out on the trails!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bob Keller".

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Save a Tree at Sammamish Landing**
Oct. 7, 9 a.m. to noon, 4607 E. Lake Sammamish Pkwy. N.E.
Pull out invasive English ivy, which is crawling up trees and smothering our native plants.
- **Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park**
Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to noon, 1317 212th Ave. S.E.
Join the Washington Native Plant Society to remove invasive weeds and plant trees and shrubs.
- **Plant a Tree in Sammamish Commons**
Oct. 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 550 222nd Pl. S.E.
Plant trees and shrubs and learn about native vegetation.



For more information or to register, visit www.sammamish.us/community-involvement

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING



3:00 - 4:30 PM

Trek through Sammamish City Hall for a fun, safe, and free trick-or-treat adventure! Appropriate for all ages.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

Now available: Family and youth therapy

City residents just got a new resource to help youth and families in need of counseling.

The Sammamish YMCA is thrilled to introduce Allora Tvedt, a licensed mental-health professional, who has been hired as a Child & Family Therapist for Member Wellness.

(Please note: her counseling services are open to the community; a current YMCA membership is not required.)

"I feel so privileged to be working in the Sammamish community," Tvedt said.



Allora Tvedt

sessions, Tvedt will be leading many workshops this fall featuring community experts to address subjects ranging from emotional eating to anxiety to stress management.

To schedule an appointment or learn more about her services, contact Tvedt at atvedt@seattleyymca.org or (206) 437-7772.

"I am passionate about helping people work through tough times, learn more about themselves, and live healthy lives."

In addition to individual and family therapy

Did you know?

Resources to keep you healthy, safe, productive, and happy

This fall, city leaders will continue to develop a comprehensive, multi-year strategy to evaluate and meet the health- and human-service needs of residents. As part of this process, the City Council recently created a standing Human Services Commission and conducted a city-wide assessment of services and gaps in services.

To access or learn more about local services and resources, call Community Services Coordinator Rita Badh, (425) 295-0579.

JUNK TAKING UP SPACE?

Let us help you get rid of it the responsible way!

Sammamish/King County Recycling Collection Event
Sat., Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Discovery Elementary School

YES

- Tires
- Batteries
- Mattresses
- Styrofoam
- Household goods/clothing
- Propane tanks
- Porcelain toilets/sinks
- Refrigerators/freezers
- Appliances
- Scrap metal
- Electronic equipment

NO

- Computer monitors/televisions
- Motor oil or antifreeze
- Paper-shredding services
- Scrap/bulky wood
- Furniture
- Garbage
- Construction debris
- Window glass
- Plastic toys or hoses
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, fluorescent lights, etc.)

More information and pricing: call (425) 295-0500

LEAN, continued from page 1

blocks in the bonding-process workflow and alternatives.

“It was exhausting—that was the hardest two days I’ve had in a long time,” Hilde said. “That’s what it took to bring us all together to let go of ‘but this is the way I’ve always done it’ and come up with something much better.”

Some of the issues the team discovered: Public Works and Community Development both required the same bonding guarantee but had different forms and processes; there was no centralized repository of forms and information for staff or the public; and each application required an in-person intake session with four city staff members to exchange information with the applicant.

No more! The bonding process now has simplified and consistent forms—available with instructions and contact information on a new robust website—with a centralized adminis-

trator responsible for correspondence with applicants. Rather than scheduled intake sessions, the city has moved to an open timeframe on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for applicants to drop by to meet with a single employee who is equipped with a comprehensive checklist.

The city expects to save at least \$9,000 a year and recoup at least 161 staff hours through these new efficiencies. Less quantifiably, applicants can expect improved customer service, better use of their own time, and less confusion as they apply for development permits.

“We are focusing our experts where their knowledge is most needed, in technical reviews for a quicker turnaround for everyone,” Hilde said. “When staff time is our most important resource, that’s huge.”

Next up to be overhauled in the Lean efficiency machine: the single-family permit process in October.

“Continuous improvement, that’s the goal,” Hilde said.

Trash study coming to a can near you

COUNTY ANALYSTS WILL TAKE CURBSIDE SAMPLES

The critters pawing through your garbage cans may not be of the furry variety this month, so please don’t be alarmed. Starting Oct. 12, King County’s Solid Waste Division will be sampling materials in curbside garbage, recycling, and yard waste containers along randomly selected routes throughout Sammamish as part of a study on recycling and composting. They will not identify or record any specific customer information or link trash materials to an address. They will take samples to a central collection place to be weighed and sorted. The results—which will be compared to similar data from 2009, 2011, and 2014—will help our city and region learn to better manage waste, organics, and recycling by improving education, outreach, and incentive programs.

Questions? Call King County’s Alexander Rist at (206) 477-5253.

Fall Fertilizing Tips

Fertilizer is a pollutant when it’s washed into streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. If you must use fertilizers, please follow these tips to limit the environmental impact:

- Apply fertilizer in the fall when it is most beneficial to cool-season grasses and least likely to end up in runoff.
- Avoid leaving fertilizer on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces onto the lawn or into the garden.
- If possible, avoid applying fertilizer at all, or at minimum, avoid using prior to rain.

New traffic officers support public-safety emphasis HORSES, HEARSEs, BIRTHS, AND BEAUTY: PATROLLING THE ROADS!

Introducing Sammamish's newest addition to the police force, the nicest pair of officers you probably never hope to meet pulled over on the side of the road! In early October, Derek Jones became the city's third full-time traffic enforcement officer, and Jesse Watts came on board as a combo traffic-enforcement and patrol officer.

"Public safety is a priority for our Sammamish community," said Acting Police Chief Jesse Anderson. "As we experience a higher volume of vehicles and pedestrians on our city roadways, the police department has increased the number of traffic officers to meet the demands of addressing traffic complaints and enforcing traffic laws. The goal is to reduce collisions and help our residents, visitors, and those doing business in the city move about our community safe and sound."

Officer Jones has served as a policeman for more than a decade, with a good chunk of his experience in Arizona on a motorcycle investigating collisions, enforcing traffic laws, and removing impaired drivers from the road. He also took to the streets in four-legged mode as a downtown mounted officer (unfortunately, he's not bringing Mr. Ed to his work in Sammamish).

Officer Watts has been in law enforcement since 2006. He began his career in Oregon, then relocated with his family to Nevada after five years, and finally made it to the best corner of the world—the Pacific Northwest—last year.

Both officers say traffic-enforcement can be a matter of life and death—sometimes in very expected ways.

"One of the more memorable traffic stops I've made was on a work van speeding down the highway at about 4 a.m.," said Officer Jones. "The driver appeared distraught and

handed me his business card from a local funeral home." The man was trying to catch up with a van in front of him, he explained; turns out, the other van was heading to the crematorium with the wrong body inside.



Officer Derek Jones



Officer Jesse Watts

"He told me that if he didn't make it in time, he'd be finished," Officer Jones said. "Needless to say, it was a very quick traffic stop!"

Not to be outdone, Officer Watts recalled pulling over a car going 62 miles per hour in a 30 zone. It took about a mile for the driver to respond by slowing and putting on his hazard lights, another

two miles before he finally pulled over.

"As I was getting my car in park, the driver jumped out of his car screaming, 'Its coming, its coming, its coming!'" Officer Watts said. "Not knowing what was coming, I yelled at him to get back in his car ... I got up closer to detain him and discovered his wife was laying in the back seat, in labor with their first child."

Officer Watts got on the radio to request an ambulance and delivery instructions. Twelve minutes later, baby Elias was born. "Just me, mom, and dad on the side of the road," Watts said. "My gift to the family for the birth of their child was a verbal warning for dad's speeding."

Like their colleagues on the Sammamish Police force, both new officers want to interact with citizens in a proactive, positive way instead of on the side of the road with red and blue lights blazing. If you are interested in learning good driving habits, want to know more about traffic laws, or need a refresher about what to do if you are pulled over, please ask!

DRIVE SAFELY *Tips from the city pros*



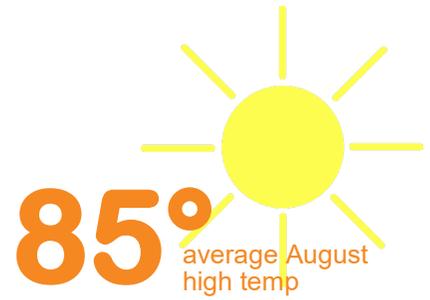
"There are a number of active construction sites in Sammamish, and with that comes an increase in semi-truck traffic. It's important to remember that these trucks and their loads often weight over 100,000 pounds. Even though they have heavy-duty brakes, they need considerably more time and distance to stop. **Give trucks a wide berth and resist the urge to zip around and cut in front of them.** You may be able to stop and avoid a hazard in front of you, but can you say the same for the truck in your rearview mirror?"
—Officer Jones

"The habit I would like everyone to follow would be slow down! This doesn't just mean speeding, but **slowing down and enjoying life in general.** I'd like to see everyone slow down to enjoy the moments that are in front of us. The sunsets, the fall colors and the roar of the crowd at the local high school football/basketball/baseball game or the band/choir concert. Remember the moments that are important. By slowing down in general, you'll realize that you'll slow down when in the car. Don't let the distractions of life creep into the car and hinder your driving."
—Officer Watts



SUMMER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY NUMBERS



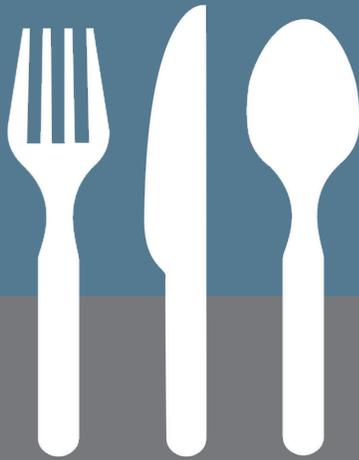
hours of recreation
usage on athletic fields

4,535



#1

Discussion on transportation policies is the #1 priority at all council meetings.



pounds of food donated on Mayor's Day of Concern

10,591

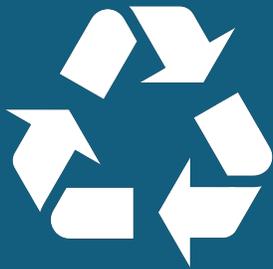
number of families that signed pledges to take green actions like natural yard care

257



69.5

tons of materials diverted from a landfill in the city's Recycling Collection Event



20,634
pounds of electronics

2,304
participants



500,000

dollars' worth of sidewalk and accessibility-ramp replacements

11K+



participants at Fourth on the Plateau

actions since the city launched its electrical permitting program July 1



582

 electrical permits issued

801

 electrical inspections performed

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 10

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

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- Concurrency/Transportation Level of Service Technical Meeting, noon
- Human Services Task Force, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13

- Keiko Hara Art Exhibit Installation, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 14

- Sammamish Recycling Collection Event, Discovery Elementary, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

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

Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19

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

Saturday, Oct. 21

- Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park, 9 a.m.-noon

Monday, Oct. 23

- Arts Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26

- Transit Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.
- Issaquah-Fall City Road Construction and Detour Route Open House, 5:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28

- Plant a Tree in Sammamish Commons, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- Halloween Happening, 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4

- Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park, 9 a.m. -noon

Monday, Nov. 6

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

Tuesday, Nov. 7

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

Thursday, Nov. 9

- Artist's Opening Reception-Keiko Hara Exhibit, 6-8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 10

- City Hall closed for Veterans Day

Monday, Nov. 13

- Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PRO) Plan Open House #3, 5:30-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2

- Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

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



Have a plan. Build a kit. Stay informed. Get involved.

Download your copy of the new Sammamish Emergency Preparedness Guide by visiting sammamish.us and searching for "emergency preparedness resources." The guide will help you to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters that can affect our city.

Community partners wanted to plan eco-friendly pest management

In the U.S., we use about one billion pounds of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and fumigants annually. The Sammamish Integrated Pest Management Committee is committed to finding a better way to control weeds and pests within our city—but we can't do it alone! Please join us to help reduce chemical-pesticide use and promote environmental health by contacting Lisa Werre at lwerre@sammamish.us or (425) 295-0573. Individuals and community groups are welcome.

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Bob Keller Mayor
 Christie Malchow Deputy Mayor
 Don Gerend Councilmember
 Tom Hornish Councilmember
 Kathy Huckabay Councilmember
 Tom Odell Councilmember
 Ramiro Valderrama Councilmember

Issaquah-Fall City Road Improvement Project



PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Oct. 26, 5:30-8 p.m., City Hall

- Provide feedback on potential construction detour routes.
- Brainstorm possible solutions to manage traffic and maintain safety during construction.
- Ask questions and talk to the project team.

More information and FAQs are posted at sammamish.us.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Aaron Antin	Finance Director
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Karen Porterfield	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 the Communications Department, (425) 295-5591.