



NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the City of Sammamish

**SAFE DRIVING IN
WINTER CONDITIONS**

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH
CLIMATE CHALLENGE**

UPCOMING EVENTS

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk or bridge crossing a field of tall, dry grass. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and has a simple wooden railing. The background shows a line of trees, some with autumn foliage, under a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests it's a bright day.

November 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!

Water Quality Enforcement Code Updates

On July 18, 2023, Sammamish City Council adopted amendments to the stormwater enforcement section of the Sammamish Development Code (SDC). The amendments will provide fair and defensible code enforcement with a structured penalty system for water quality violations. In addition, minor changes are proposed to terminology as required by the NPDES Stormwater Permit.

Past practices and code language stated that city staff shall initially rely on education and informational assistance as much as possible to gain compliance. The language has been updated to reflect staff may initially rely on education or move to civil penalties based on the severity of the violation.

The civil penalty assessment is now a point-based rating system to determine the fine amount, similar to King County and other Eastside jurisdictions. This will provide city staff with a fair, predictable, and objective enforcement code to implement. The assessment distinguishes the severity of a violation based on public health risk, environmental damage, intention, unresponsiveness, and if a required plan failed to be implemented.

The new water quality code violation update will be effective January 1, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Werre 425.295.0573.



New Hybrid SUV Patrol Vehicle

Your Sammamish Police Department is proud to introduce our first-ever hybrid SUV patrol vehicle to our fleet. This new addition is part of our ongoing effort to be more environmentally responsible and reduce our carbon footprint.

By choosing a hybrid patrol vehicle, we are conserving energy, reducing pollution, setting an example for our community, and encouraging sustainable practices. Every small step counts towards a greener future for Sammamish.



Keeping Sammamish Safe: Snow Removal Process and Winter Readiness

As winter approaches, the City of Sammamish is gearing up to tackle the challenges that come with snow and ice. Sammamish experiences its fair share of winter weather, and the city is well-prepared to ensure the safety of its community members and commuters during these colder months.

Priority Routes and Resources

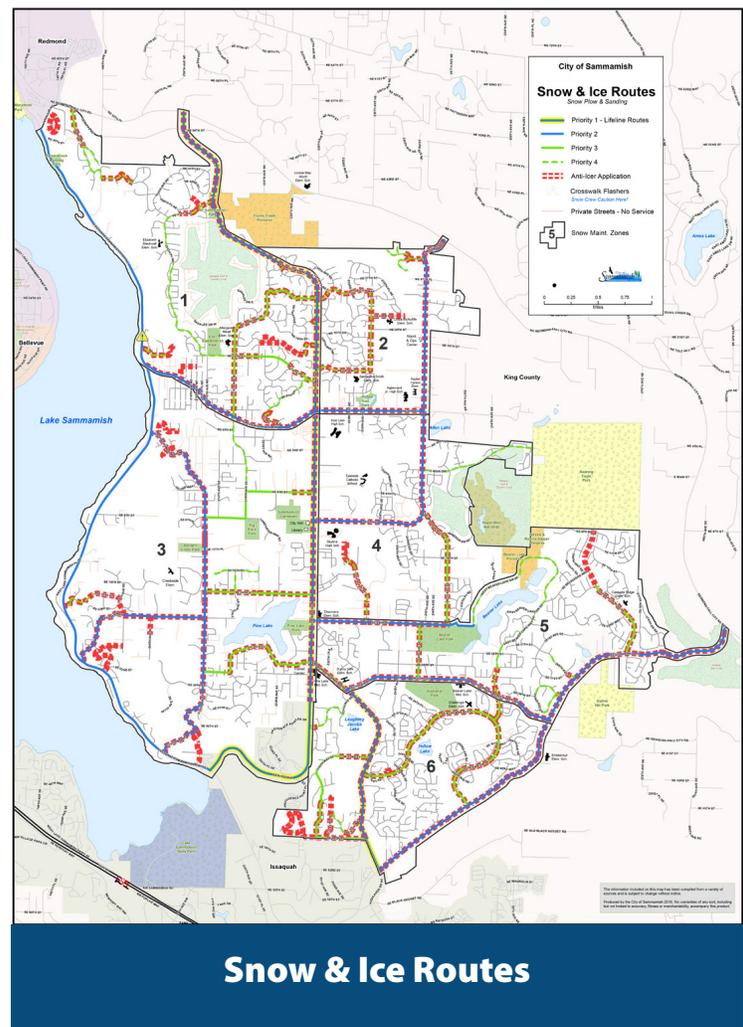
Sammamish's snow removal process starts with a comprehensive plan. The city's snow management strategy centers on four Priority Routes, served by twenty-four dedicated drivers working 12-hour shifts to provide snow response to the community 24 hours a day during snow events. With a mechanic and support staff on standby, the city is prepared to take on the challenges of winter head-on. These routes prioritize lifeline roads and are cleared until they are in optimal winter driving conditions. These routes are the primary roads for first responders to access areas of the city in an emergency or life-safety situation.

Fleet and Materials

To facilitate effective snow removal, Sammamish has twelve plow trucks equipped to carry a combination of road salt, sand, or liquid deicer. These essential vehicles are stationed at the Maintenance and Operations Center (MOC), strategically stocked with vital supplies. The MOC is equipped to store an impressive 250 yards of road salt (equivalent to a staggering 540,000 pounds) and 35,000 gallons of liquid deicer.

Adapting to Changing Conditions

Sammamish's response to winter storms is more than one-size-fits-all. The effectiveness of our storm response varies based on several factors, including weather patterns, changing conditions, micro-climates, road temperatures, and the impacts of vehicles stranded or abandoned on the roadways. The city recognizes that each winter event is unique and adjusts its response accordingly.





Safety First: Use Caution Driving in Winter Conditions

Please use caution when driving in winter conditions. Ice and snow cause slick road conditions, leading to loss of control. Visibility is reduced during the shorter days so please use your headlights and use extra caution when approaching marked crosswalks near schools. Please keep your vehicle well maintained, including your vehicle's battery, wipers, coolant, tires, and other systems. If you are walking around the city in the wintertime, please always use marked crosswalks whenever possible when crossing streets and wait for cars to come to a full stop before crossing.

As a reminder, the city of Sammamish's website has a page to view traffic cameras at several major intersections, allowing you to see the conditions of the roads during major snow or ice events.

Keeping Sammamish Safe: Snow Removal Process and Winter Readiness

Community Effort

In Sammamish, tackling snow and ice is a collaborative effort. Public Works and Parks crews come together to ensure the roads are safe for travel. In addition to plowing, these crews constantly monitor weather and road conditions, fuel vehicles, load supplies, and perform necessary repairs. Snow support includes ordering materials, coordinating with other agencies, school zone flasher programming, and maintaining adequate internal and external communication.

Challenges and Solutions

The city acknowledges that snow and ice can be harsh on their equipment, often necessitating the replacement of plow blades. In some cases, replacement parts and supplies may be delayed due to more significant regional storms. For example, material shipments were delayed due to road closures during the December 2021 to January 2022 storm event. In response, the city's resourceful crew replaced a plow blade with a temporary rubber one, showcasing their dedication to keeping the city safe.

Snow removal operations are harsh on vehicles and equipment, necessitating minor and sometimes significant repairs. Although the city stocks an assortment of tools and spare plow, sander, and deicer parts, it is only possible to have one or two of every part, sometimes calling for thinking outside the box. For example, during the 2019/2020 snow season, one of the city's 10-foot plows had a sizeable central bolt become loose. This bolt holds the plow together. Tightening this bolt required a huge specialty wrench. One crew member came up with the idea of cutting a makeshift wrench out of raw steel. After some quick fabrication, we could tighten the bolt and get the plow back on the road.

Impacts Beyond Roads

Winter storms in Sammamish also affect solid waste collection. After significant storms, the city, through its contractor Republic Services, offers debris curbside collection for additional yard waste. In addition, drop-off locations are established if two consecutive waste collections are missed due to inclement weather.

Pretreatment and Cleanup

Before the arrival of snow, the city undertakes pretreatment efforts. This includes the application of calcium chloride with boost (CCB) or rock salt on roads to reduce bonding between the pavement and snow and ice.

After Storm Response

The work is far from over once the snow has been cleared and the ice has melted. Crews shift back to regular 8-hour schedules, responding to potential flooding and addressing issues like pothole repair. Restocking snow and ice materials is also crucial to the post-storm response. In Sammamish, the city's commitment to the safety and well-being of its community members during the winter months is evident through its meticulous planning, hardworking crews, and resourcefulness in the face of challenges. As winter arrives, community members can rest assured that their city is prepared to keep Sammamish safe and accessible during the snowy and icy season.

ATTENTION:

Solid Waste Service

Recently, the Sammamish City Council voted to amend the current contract with Republic Services for solid waste collection services. This amendment extends the City's current contract with Republic by three years, sets a fixed annual inflation adjustment for rates, and includes the Klahanie neighborhood with the rest of the City's service area.

By extending the current solid waste collection contract with a set annual inflation adjustment, Sammamish is avoiding the potential significant rate increase that other cities have experienced during recent competitive procurement processes. This is a difficult time to procure new collection contracts due to uncertainty over the potential of long-term collection costs to outstrip the contract inflation escalator, instability in the current recycling markets, decrease in the value of recyclable materials, future inflation uncertainty, and supply chain issues.

Residents and businesses in the Klahanie neighborhood will shift from being regulated under the Washington Utilities & Trade Commission to being included in the City's regular contract, so they will pay the same rates and have the same services as the other City residents and businesses.

- Weekly recyclables and compostables collection are now embedded in residential garbage rates. Composting yard waste and food scraps can help fight against climate change and meet the City's sustainability goals.
- All single-family residential homes will be provided with carts for garbage, recycling, and yard waste, if they do not have them already. These carts are provided at no charge, have wheels for easy movement, and can be replaced if lost, damaged, or stolen. Residents may keep their personal cans for extra material or storage.
- Residents and businesses who were accidentally missed will now have their containers serviced on the next business day rather than waiting an entire week until their next regularly scheduled service day.
- If garbage collection is missed for two or more weeks due to inclement weather, residents may bring their garbage to a drop-off point in the City at no additional cost and will receive a credit on their bill.

Who do I contact if I have questions or issues?
Residents and businesses should call Republic at (206)777-6441 for service changes, missed collection, pay bill, and other regular services.



Updated Klahanie collections services begin on January 1, 2024

What does this mean?

Will I get new carts? What happens to my personal can? Every household currently using a personal can for garbage will receive a new grey 32-gallon garbage cart that will be dropped off in early December. You can keep your old personal trash can. If you are not already subscribed to compost service, you will also receive a green 96-gallon compost cart. Your recycling cart remains the same. If you already have Republic carts, then no changes will occur. If you would like to change the size of any of your carts after Jan. 1, call us at 206-777-6441.

Compost service is now embedded!

All single-family households will now have weekly compost service embedded in their garbage service.

Will my service day or account number

change? No. Garbage, recycling, and compost will continue to be picked up weekly on your scheduled day. Your account number, payments, and billing cycle will remain the same.

What else will change? As of Jan. 1 2024, Klahanie customers will pay the same rates as Sammamish customers and have all the same services.

Questions? Call our dedicated Sammamish customer service line at 206-777-6441 or visit us online at republicservices.com/municipality/klahanie-wa

For more information about the City's solid waste programs, visit www.sammamish.us/i-want-to/view-solid-waste-resources/



Maximizing Green Bins for a Greener Tomorrow

If you're looking to make a positive environmental impact right from your doorstep, maximizing the use of your curbside green bin is a great place to start. This simple practice not only reduces landfill waste but also offers a myriad of environmental benefits. Here's how you can make the most of it:

- **Proper Sorting:** Ensure that only organic waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, flowers, branches, and plant trimmings, goes into your green bin. Avoid including non-compostable items like plastics or metal.
- **Collect Kitchen Scraps:** In addition to yard waste, add kitchen scraps like fruit and vegetable peels, coffee grounds, eggshells, meat, and bones to your green bin. This enriches the compost with valuable nutrients.
- **Efficient Chopping and Shredding:** Before placing yard waste in the bin, consider chopping or shredding larger items. This increases surface area, expediting the decomposition process.
- **NO Plastic Bags:** Opt for compostable or paper bags for containment. However, it's even more eco-friendly to place waste directly into the bin, reducing plastic consumption.

Why should you Compost?

1. **Reduced Landfill Waste:** By diverting organic matter from landfills, you contribute to a significant reduction in methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas.
2. **Nutrient-Rich Soil:** Compost generated from yard waste is a natural fertilizer, enriching soil with essential nutrients and promoting healthy plant growth.
3. **Water Conservation:** Compost-amended soil retains moisture more effectively, reducing the need for excessive watering.
4. **Lowered Carbon Footprint:** Composting locally minimizes transportation emissions associated with hauling waste to landfills.
5. **Preservation of Ecosystems:** Proper composting supports a diverse range of microorganisms and insects, contributing to a thriving ecosystem.

By maximizing the use of your green bin, you're taking a significant step towards a more sustainable lifestyle. Embrace this eco-friendly practice and join the movement towards a greener, healthier planet.

Sammamish Climate Challenge

The City of Sammamish is proud to announce the Sammamish Climate Challenge. Sammamish is a vibrant, growing community with quality neighborhoods, diverse natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. The City is in the final stages of developing a Climate Action Plan with strategies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. You can join this challenge and contribute to a cleaner, healthier future!

This platform makes it easy and fun for community members to reduce their environmental impact. Users can select from various green actions and track their progress while engaging in friendly competition with neighbors. Actions are simple everyday things you can do to reduce your impact and save you money. As actions are completed, the Climate Challenge will calculate household carbon reductions, cost savings, and other metrics using data specific to Sammamish and our region.

The Sammamish Climate Challenge has been initiated in tandem with the development of the Climate Action Plan. While the CAP has not yet been adopted, the overarching goals were set by City Council direction in March 2023 and include:

- Achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets that reduce sources of GHG emission by at least 50% by 2023, 75% by 2040, and 96% by 2050, compared to a 2019 baseline.
- Achieving a per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction by 30% by 2030, and 50% by 2050, compared to a 2016 baseline.

Help Sammamish reach our goals! The City is aiming for 250 households to sign up for the Climate Challenge by the end of 2023. **Sign up your household here: sammamishclimatechallenge.org/**

Sustainability Hub – Now Live

The City of Sammamish is committed to protecting its natural environment and promoting sustainability through initiatives aimed at reducing the city's carbon footprint and preserving its unique natural resources.

Want to learn more about sustainability in Sammamish? Visit our new webpage www.sammamish.us/our-community/environment-sustainability/sustainability-hub/.

There, you can find information on natural resources, transportation, climate action, development, and more.



Environmental Education and Engagement Programs

Learn How to be Rainwise!

Join a webinar, workshop, or celebration event to learn more about rain gardens and cisterns and how they help control polluted stormwater runoff that leads to our rivers. Talk to an array of experts on rain gardens, sustainability, and yard design, and meet RainWise contractors! Join Us!

Volunteer at a Local Park

King County Parks leads an average of **10,000 volunteers** a year performing restoration, park improvement and building and maintaining trails. Each program weaves environmental education into the event.

Join us: parksvolunteer.kingcounty.gov

Get “Into the Weeds” with King County

Join King County Noxious Weed Specialist, Skye Pelliccia, in a deep dive webinar into all things weeds. What is the difference between a noxious weed and an invasive plant? Learn how these plants work and get insight into weed management. \$10.50 Bellevue Botanic Garden Members/\$15 Non-members.

Sign-up now at: bellevuebotanical.org/event/lets-get-into-the-weeds/

City of Sammamish: Climate Action Plan

The City of Sammamish has outlined a comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change. The overarching objective is to harmonize with broader regional, state, and federal efforts, ensuring that Sammamish moves towards a net-zero emissions target by 2050. The CAP emphasizes a targeted approach to emissions reduction and is grounded in regional frameworks to ensure alignment with established best practices.

The City has set forth ambitious goals, including:

- A 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030 and a 96% reduction by 2050, using data from 2019 as the baseline
- A 30% reduction of per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 2030 and 50% by 2050, relative to a 2016 baseline

The CAP is the culmination of over a year's collaboration among various stakeholders, focused on measuring and pinpointing ways to reduce the city's GHG emissions. To achieve the goals outlined in this plan, the City will need to invest in low-carbon energy, sustainable transportation, and resiliency solutions.

The City's 2019 baseline emissions were 578,006 MTCO₂e, with VMT and residential energy use being the primary GHG contributors. Consequently, the CAP emphasizes goals and strategies to cut GHG emissions from VMT and energy sources. The figure to the left shows forecasted reduction in emissions by category (electricity, natural gas, and transportation) from 2019 to 2050. This chart highlights the role of natural gas emissions as the City's foremost challenge in meeting its current goals. Emissions reductions are based on local, state, and regional plans to reduce GHG emissions.

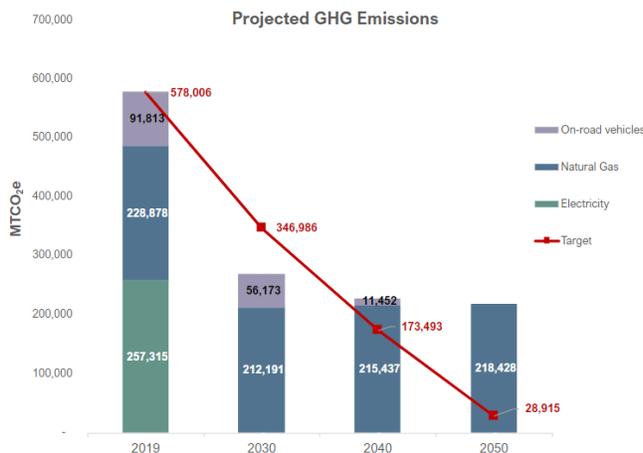


Figure 4: Projected emissions by category based on the Puget Sound Regional Analysis tool. While other emissions are largely addressed by existing legislation, natural gas emissions remain consistent and should therefore be the focus of Sammamish's reduction efforts.



Reduce your energy usage and GHG emissions in your home:

- Electrify natural gas appliances.
- Install smart thermostats and LED lights.
- Consider weatherization upgrades.
- Prioritize purchase of energy efficient appliances.
- Turn lights off, use cold water in laundry, and practice appropriate waste disposal

More ways for community members to make an impact are provided in each focus area of the CAP. Recognizing that the value of a plan lies in its execution, the City combines strategic measures with robust stakeholder collaboration to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change.

The City has recently launched the Sammamish Climate Challenge to help residents track their environmental impact.

Sign up your household here:
sammamishclimatechallenge.org/

Climate Action Plan Focus Areas



Transportation & Land Use

- Goal 1:** Reduce per capita VMT 30% by 2030, 50% by 2050
- Goal 2:** Increase EV adoption with 100% light duty adoption by 2050; 50% medium duty adoption by 2050, and 40% heavy duty adoption by 2050



Buildings & Energy Use

- Goal 1:** Reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 and 96% by 2050
- Goal 2:** 100% renewable electricity by 2050



Natural Resources

- Goal 1:** Make use of the numerous advantages that trees and natural ecosystems offer to the environment and communities



Water

- Goal 1:** Determine water consumption baseline and reduce per capita gallons of potable water consumed



Waste

- Goal 1:** 70% Waste diversion by 2030, zero waste of economically valuable resources by 2050



Resiliency

- Goal 1:** Design and implement resiliency planning and response services program



What can you do?

Reduce your transportation-related GHG emissions:

- Use public transportation or rideshare services.
- Drive an electric, fuel efficient, or hybrid vehicle.
- Plan efficient routes and carpool.
- Maintain your vehicle.
- Ride a bike or walk.



Meritorious Service Award Deputy Chief Sgt. Christine Elias

Chief Steven Lysaght and your Sammamish Police Department proudly present the Meritorious Service Award to Deputy Chief Sgt. Christine Elias. Sgt. Elias has received the Meritorious Service Award for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the Sammamish Police Department and our Sammamish community. Sgt. Elias has been a shining example of what it means to uphold the mission of the Sammamish Police Department - to provide quality, professional law enforcement services to improve public safety within our city. Her unwavering commitment to this mission has left an indelible mark on our community. Throughout her tenure, Sgt. Elias has demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, and a deep sense of compassion. She has worked tirelessly to foster strong relationships with our residents and businesses, always striving to make Sammamish a safer and more welcoming place for all. Her dedication to enhancing public safety and tireless efforts to build trust between the police department and the community have not gone unnoticed. Sgt. Elias is not just a symbol of excellence in law enforcement but an inspiration to all who know her. Please join us in congratulating and expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Sgt. Christine Elias for her remarkable service and for helping make Sammamish a safer community.

Adoption of Park Master Plans for two Future Parks: **Beaton Hill Park and Big Rock Park South**

The Parks Department is excited to announce that after more than a year of planning and public outreach, the City Council adopted the master plans for Beaton Hill Park and Big Rock Park South.

Beaton Hill Park and Big Rock Park South are centrally located within the City's core. Beaton Hill Park was acquired in 2018 and is directly north of the three Big Rock Park properties, which are all connected and terminate with Big Rock Park South at SE 20th Street. Big Rock Park South was donated to the City in 2021. These new parks expand the overall Big Rock and Beaton Hill Parks corridor by adding 24 acres of new parkland to the park system.

Before starting the development of a park, a master plan process is initiated to look at the property comprehensively, following a process that involves the entire community. A master plan is a long-term vision for a park; it provides the framework for addressing future park development. One of the goals for planning these two properties concurrently was to prepare plans that integrate with Big Rock Park North and Central and to provide a cohesive park system in the City's core.

Thank you to those who participated in the public process for the park master plans. We appreciated hearing your input!



Beaton Hill Park



Big Rock Park South

Art in Sammamish: **A Showcase by Local Talent**

**Upcoming art exhibit at City Hall
Dec 11, 2023 - January 26, 2024**

The Sammamish Arts Commission is thrilled to introduce their upcoming event: "Art in Sammamish: A Showcase by Local Talent" This exhibition is set to cast a spotlight on the exceptional talent within our local community, highlighting photography, paintings, beaded jewelry and other media. A significant number of the artworks showcased during the event will be available for purchase. This presents an incredible opportunity to acquire unique, locally crafted pieces that reflect the heart and soul of our community.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held at City Hall on December 8th from 6:30-8:00.

This event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to join us in meeting the artists and appreciating the incredible art that Sammamish area artists have to offer. Mark your calendars and prepare to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of art right here in Sammamish.



Winter Upcoming Events



**DEC
15**



Frosty Fest

CWU Sammamish
120 228th Ave NE Sammamish, WA 98074
4:00pm - 8:00pm

This highly anticipated, family-friendly event is a Sammamish tradition. On Friday, December 15th we look forward to bringing the community together to share in a festive evening of activities, food and entertainment. Local school choirs will be performing on stage, a photo booth, real reindeer, and more! The event will take place at CWU Sammamish, 120 228th Ave NE Sammamish, WA 98074, from 4:00pm-8:00pm. Come in your comfy pajamas!



**FEB
10**

Lunar New Year

CWU Sammamish
120 228th Ave NE Sammamish, WA 98074
1:00pm - 5:00pm

Join us on February 10th to celebrate the Year of the Dragon! The diversely talented international community of Sammamish will be featured with activities centered around Asian culture and ceremonial traditions. This year's Lion Dance will take place at 4:00pm by Mak Fai Dragon & Lion Dance Association. The event will have a vibrant display of stage performances, educational activities and food trucks. Join us at CWU Sammamish, 120 228th Ave NE Sammamish, WA 98074 from 1:00pm-5:00pm to celebrate Lunar New Year.

**For more information and updates please visit our website
and keep an eye on our Facebook page.**

How to Get Information & Get Involved

Sammamish City Council Meetings

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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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY-VEGETABLE BASED INKS.



City of Sammamish
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FROSTY FEST

15 December, 2023
TREATS | LIVE REINDEER | GAMES
COME DRESSED IN YOUR COZY PJ'S

4pm-8pm
Free Event at Central Washington University
120 228th Ave NE, Sammamish
WA 98074

OVERFLOW PARKING AT
EASTLAKE HIGH

For more information visit our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/SammamishParks/>