

MARCH 2021

# SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

*The official publication of the City of Sammamish*



## Neighbors and Friends,

We've had a productive and reaffirming start to the new year as we continue to navigate the impact COVID-19 has had on our community, as well as recover from national political unrest. I want to take this moment and space to express my horror at what occurred at our nation's Capitol Building on January 6. While political differences can divide, we all must condemn the actions that occurred at the Capitol and work on building stronger communities together.

In January, we joined the Issaquah Vaccine Community Partnership, a public/private partnership with the City of Issaquah, Eastside Fire and Rescue, Swedish Issaquah, Issaquah School District, and Costco. The goal of the partnership is to ensure safe, equitable, and timely vaccinations with a focus on the most vulnerable in our community. This work is extremely important, and I understand firsthand the eagerness to get vaccinated and to protect loved ones. The demand for vaccinations is very high and the supply of vaccines is limited; however, the community partnership is moving forward with the vaccine supply we do have and have already vaccinated all residents of adult family homes in Sammamish.

Also, to kick off the year, the City Council hosted our annual two-day retreat virtually in January where we reviewed plans for the year and received great input from City Staff and residents. We do currently have an open seat on the City Council and started the application process to fill the seat in early February. More information on the selection process is posted on our website at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us). City Staff also hosted a virtual city forum in January. If you did not have a chance to watch it live, the video is posted on the City's YouTube channel.

As always, keep sending me your thoughts and suggestions.  
Mayor Karen Moran



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Don't Feed the Ducks
- 3 Meet Sammamish Police Officer, Chris Sawtelle
- 4 Community Needs Assessment Survey Results
- 5 Discover the Community Van
- 6 All About Stormwater with Danika Globokar
- 7 Cub Scouts Meet Mayor
- 7 Environmental Impact Study
- 8 City Contact Info



# No Crackers for Quackers - Do Not Feed the Ducks

## HELP KEEP WATERFOWL HEALTHY AND WILD

*Article provided by Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department*

Heading to the park to feed the ducks is a very old and popular family pastime; it's a fun, free activity and a great way for parents and children to see and appreciate wildlife and nature. What many people don't realize is that bread, rolls, chips, and other human "snack food" items do not offer the proper nutrition that ducks and geese need – and that the act of feeding a diet heavy in bread and other empty carbohydrates can lead to severe health consequences and a variety of other problems.

### Nutritional Consequences

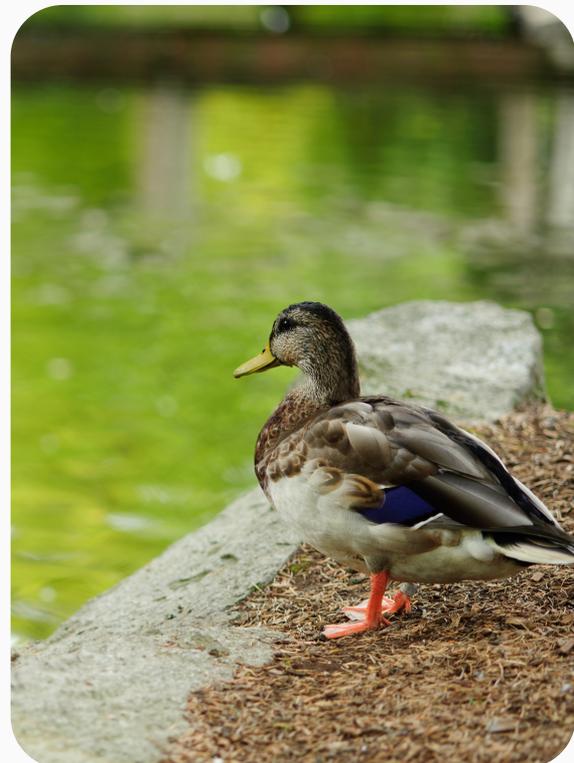
Wild ducks and geese feed on a variety of grains and grasses, aquatic plants, and invertebrates, all naturally found in the wild. When eaten in combination, these foods are nutritionally balanced and provide everything a wild duck or goose needs to survive. In contrast, foods commonly fed to waterfowl in public parks, such as bread, crackers, popcorn, and corn, are typically low in protein and essential nutrients and minerals (such as calcium and phosphorus). While a single feeding of these "junk foods" may not harm waterfowl, it adds up! If everyone visiting a park "only" gives a few pieces of bread or crackers to ducks and geese, it quickly becomes the bulk of what wild waterfowl consume, and results in a variety of nutritional disorders.

Waterfowl in public parks are often admitted to wildlife rehabilitation centers with metabolic bone disease (MBD). Birds with MBD have incredibly soft bones and joints that are often malformed and fractured; these injuries are caused by an overall calcium deficiency in the body, which is linked to an inappropriate diet. Calcium also plays a crucial role in the formation of eggs/offspring, clotting ability, cardiovascular and neuromuscular function, and a variety of other metabolic activities.

Birds with MBD are often so malformed they cannot fly and become dependent on handouts, completing a vicious cycle. Affected birds are typically too weak to compete for food and defend themselves and are often the victims of aggressive attacks by other ducks and geese. One more problem with bread products is that this type of food expands in water – and the stomach – which gives ducks and geese an artificial feeling that they are full. As a result, these birds may not feel motivated to continue foraging on natural foods of higher nutritional value.

### What You Can Do

Allowing ducks and geese to find their own wild, nutritionally balanced diet is best – for the health of waterfowl and the surrounding environment. Instead of feeding ducks and geese, consider collecting stray fishing hooks, lines, and sinkers.



## Meet Sammamish Police Officer, Chris Sawtelle

*Chris Sawtelle is a motorcycle traffic enforcement officer. He returned to Sammamish Police Department in 2013 after previously being a patrol officer from 2003 - 2005. Chris is also a Master Police Officer in the deputy training program.*

### Tell us about traffic enforcement methods of SPD that help to keep our streets safe.

When we receive a resident speed complaint, the first thing we do is deploy our traffic monitoring devices. We use that data to see if there's an actual speeding problem, and if so, what time of day we need to deploy our resources appropriately. Once we start working a road, we use RADAR and LIDAR (laser) to monitor traffic and take enforcement action when needed. We're able to provide reports to complainants to show what we learned during monitoring. We also have our perches around town where we monitor for distracted driving; looking for drivers who still insist on holding their phones in their hands while driving.



### Tell us about the car seat installation assistance program and how to schedule an appointment.

I've always been interested in this program and became a NHTSA certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2018. It's a 40-hour course about child passenger safety, including the proper selection of seats, the installation of the seat in the car, and the buckling of children in those seats. It's estimated that about 80% of all seat/child combinations are installed incorrectly. When I'm out and about making traffic stops, I always look for children and make sure they're secured properly and can attest that most seats are installed incorrectly. I usually offer warnings to those drivers so long as they follow through and complete an inspection and education appointment with me.

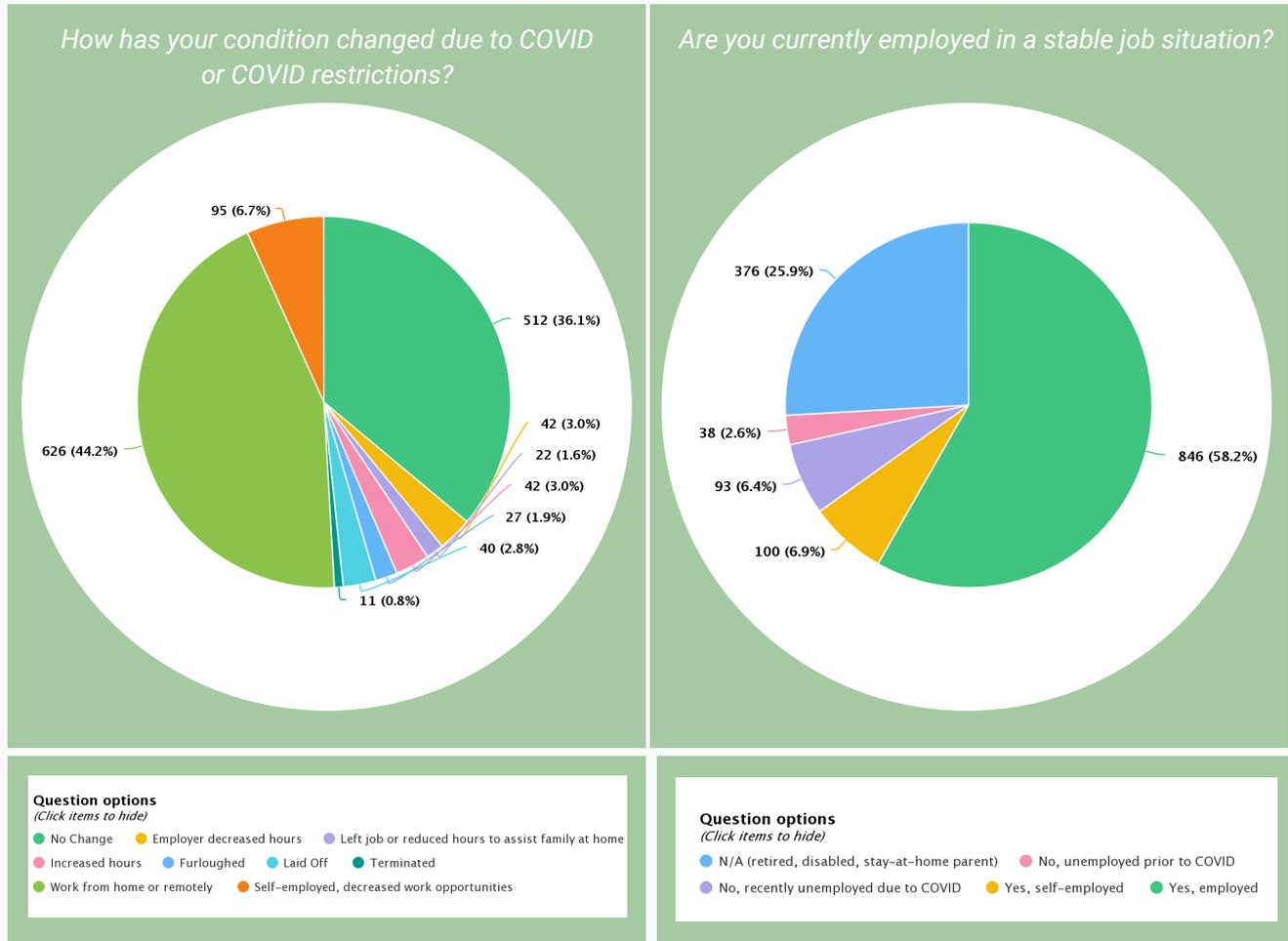
**To schedule a car seat inspection, email:  
[chris.sawtelle@kingcounty.gov](mailto:chris.sawtelle@kingcounty.gov)  
 Appointments are an hour or less.**

### What safety tips do you have for the residents of Sammamish?

As far as traffic is concerned: slow down, put your phone away, and back off of the vehicle in front of you. The vast majority of collisions are caused by distraction, following too close (tailgating), and speed. Remember you're not saving any time by going fast, you're just racing to the next stop sign or traffic signal. For non-traffic safety tips: collect your mail every day, get your packages delivered to a secure location, and take your valuables out of your vehicles at night. Mail theft and car prowls are consistent crimes in Sammamish; take steps to not offer thieves an opportunity to victimize you.

# Community Needs Assessment Survey Results

The City of Sammamish conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey to assess the immediate and long term needs and concerns of Sammamish residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the 1,453 residents who completed the survey. We will use your input to inform the City’s response, leverage resources, and support critical service needs. Here are some survey highlights to share with you.

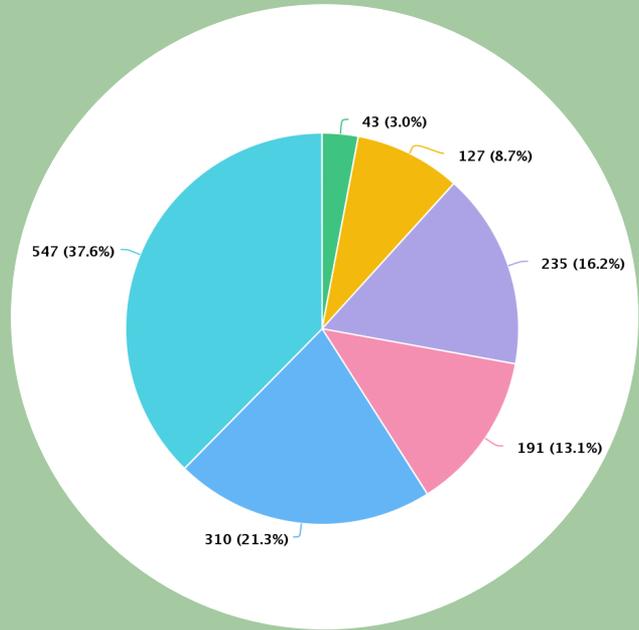


In response to community needs, the City of Sammamish joined the Issaquah Vaccine Community Partnership, a public/private partnership with the goal of ensuring safe, equitable, and timely vaccinations in Issaquah and Sammamish. Below are pictures from the mobile vaccination visits to adult family homes.



# Community Needs Assessment Survey Results

How much stress are you experiencing related to your personal finances due to COVID?



**Question options**

(Click items to hide)

- 5 - Extreme Stress
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0 - No Stress

How concerned are you about the following?



**Question options**

(Click items to hide)

- N/A
- Very Concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Not at all concerned

## Metro's Community Van

Riders can schedule one time or recurring trips up to two hours away. Cost is a Metro fare.

**Volunteers at lower risk for COVID-19 are needed.**

Never pay gas or toll charges. All COVID-19 safety precautions are being taken to limit spread.



Visit [connect.sammamish.us/mobility-hub](https://connect.sammamish.us/mobility-hub) or call Rori Kirkpatrick at (425) 295-0646.

## Ongoing Response

The City of Sammamish's partnership with the Issaquah Vaccine Community Partnership also includes Eastside Fire and Rescue, Swedish Issaquah, Issaquah School District, and Costco. The partnership meets regularly to coordinate possible vaccine distribution sites, funding needed to support these efforts, and plans for volunteer recruitment. The partnership is focused on protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

## Stay Informed

For the latest news and information, make sure to visit [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) and select "Join Our Mailing List" to subscribe to the City's weekly eNews sent to inboxes every Friday.

# All about Stormwater with Danika Globokar

*Danika Globokar is acting Deputy Director of Public Works and Senior Stormwater Manager.*

## What is stormwater and what do residents need to know about stormwater?

Stormwater is basically rainwater. It's every drop of rain that falls out of the sky and hits a surface, whether it's a road, or a house, or roof, or grass -- that rainwater is what we call stormwater. The City of Sammamish has to manage where stormwater goes so that it doesn't cause problems for residents.

All stormwater become surface water. If you want to go fishing, or if you want to swim in lakes, or if you want to have our creeks and lakes support wildlife, then it's likely you care about stormwater.

## Can you give some examples of the problems stormwater can cause for residents?

If we as a city didn't manage stormwater, then this rainwater would go anywhere and everywhere, and to the lowest points. It would settle in people's backyards. It could flood basements. Streets would be flooded. There would be extra erosion in our creeks, and our natural surface water. So, as a City, we manage stormwater to mitigate the negative impacts that could result from all this rain we get.

## Give examples of what is a pervious and impervious surface?

A pervious surface is any surface that rainwater can permeate through. For example, a lawn, a front yard -- those would be considered pervious because water can enter into the ground and permeate, and it eventually becomes part of the groundwater and the natural water cycle. Impervious surfaces are usually a solid surface that rainwater can't permeate through.



Examples are roads, roofs -- those are the two big ones that we have in Sammamish. Synthetic sports fields are also typically impervious.

## How can residents help with keeping stormwater clean?

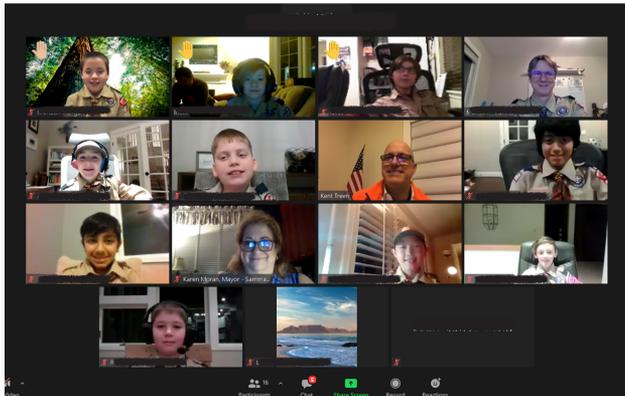
There are two ways residents can have a big impact. First, if you have a pet, scoop their poop. When pet waste is left on the ground, fecal coliform can enter our surface water. So please scoop your pet's poop!

Second, but just as important: if you want to wash your car, we encourage having your car washed at a professional carwash facility. If you want to do it yourself at home, please do it on a grassy surface so the soapy water, that has a lot of dirt and a lot of metals in it, can go into the ground. A lot of times, we see people washing the car in the street and then a trail of soapy dirty water goes into our catch basins, which eventually flows into the creeks.

**Next Issue: Part Two will have more information on how the City of Sammamish manages stormwater.**

## Cub Scouts Troop Meets Community Leaders

Last month, Mayor Karen Moran and Councilmember Kent Treen met with a group of eager 5th grade Cub Scouts from Cub Pack 571. As part of the Scouts' "Building a better world" adventure, they are learning about community and community leadership. The group took this opportunity to ask Mayor Moran and Councilmember Treen about their roles in the community and youth issues in the community.



## Your Collection Day May Change



Beginning March 1, 2021

Your recycle, garbage and yard/compost collection day may change. If your area is being re-routed, you will receive a notice from Republic Services announcing your new collection day.

[View Collection Map](#)

[www.republicservices.com/sammamish](http://www.republicservices.com/sammamish)



## Environmental Impact Study

*An update from the City of Sammamish on efforts to manage growth and transportation level of service as it relates to environmental impacts.*

Last year, former Mayor Don Gerend filed a Petition before the Washington State Growth Management Hearings Board ("GMHB") challenging the City of Sammamish's concurrency ordinance which contained methodology for measuring transportation concurrency for road segments and corridors.

The City of Sammamish, exercising its duty under the Growth Management Act ("GMA") to comprehensively manage growth, is taking the necessary steps to update the transportation and land use elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

It is currently in the midst of conducting an Environment Impact Study (EIS) in order to evaluate alternatives by which to manage transportation level of service standards and capital facilities needs and associated environmental impacts.

The EIS is a tool used by cities to understand the impact of development and growth on the environment. A building moratorium was put in place so that the City can preserve the development status quo, allowing the EIS to be completed.

The six-month moratorium adopted on July 28, 2020 expired on January 27, and a new moratorium, allowing for construction of single family homes for which concurrency certificates have already been issued, was passed by City Council on January 19, 2021 and became effective on January 27, 2021.



801 228th AVE SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075

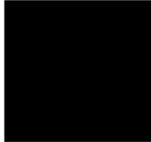
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Deputy Mayor  
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You can email the entire City Council at [citycouncil@sammamish.us](mailto:citycouncil@sammamish.us)

### City of Sammamish Offices

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#### City Staff

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City Manager

**Lita Hachey**  
City Clerk

**Dan Pingrey**  
Sammamish Police Chief

**Jeff Clark**  
EF&R Fire Chief

**Aaron Antin**  
Finance Director

**Jim Hominiuk**  
IT Director

**Jeff Elekes**  
Public Works Director

**David Pyle**  
Community Development  
Director

**Anjali Myer**  
Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
Director

#### City Resources

**Police Non-Emergency**  
(206) 296-3311

**Eastside Fire & Rescue**  
(425) 313-3200

**King County Sheriff**  
(206) 263-9133

**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**  
(425) 295-0531

**Sammamish Plateau Water  
and Sewer**  
(425) 392-6256

**NE Sammamish Water and  
Sewer**  
(425) 868-1144

#### City Notices

**Have an issue or concern?**  
Use the *My Sammamish* app  
on your smartphone.

**Have an emergency?**  
Dial 911

**Receive Email and Text Alerts**  
To subscribe to the City of  
Sammamish email and text  
alerts and updates go to  
[www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) and  
select *Join Our Mailing List*.

**Newsletter suggestions or  
concerns?**  
Contact the Front Desk at  
(425) 295-0500

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**Virtual Events**  
*While large outdoor events are uncertain due to COVID restrictions and guidance, the City will continue to offer a variety of virtual events.*  
Updates will be posted at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us)