As Kenmore celebrates its 20th birthday this year, now is a great time to reflect on the progress that our community has made since officially incorporating on August 31, 1998! Kenmore has always been a wonderful community with a strong identity. Incorporation just gave us more local and flexible control over our own destiny.

Over the last 20 years, community vision and priorities have materialized before our eyes into improved infrastructure, more than 10 miles of new sidewalks, traffic safety improvements, expanded parks, open space, recreation events and a new community gathering space at The Hangar and Town Square! How do we accomplish so much? We are a small city, but mighty! Our community is engaged and supportive. We have a City Council that works well together and listens to their community. We are financially healthy and recently received a AAA bond rating from S&P Global Ratings.

Our staff aggressively pursues grant funding to complete major projects and finds innovative solutions for park projects. In fact, we just received a $500K grant to provide a study for a grade-separated crossing of SR-522 between 61st Ave NE and 68th Ave NE and another $650K for a dredge study. We also do a great job of building strategic relationships and showing legislators and other agencies that if we say we are going to build it, we do!

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we have devoted space in this newsletter to honor a few special groups in our city’s history. Way back in 1995, a small but determined group organized around a common purpose and worked hard to lay the foundation for our city’s future and reputation.

The Citizens for Incorporation of Kenmore had a vision and worked for almost three years to ensure we could govern ourselves and make our own decisions. Our first City Council and group of city staff developed the early plans that made Kenmore what it is today. Hats off to them!

Connect with old friends and invite new neighbors to come out on August 25th to celebrate at the #WhyILoveKenmore Summer Party and 20th Anniversary Celebration! I’ll see you there.

- Mayor David Baker

First City Council, Spring ‘98: Tika Esler, Deputy Mayor Dick Taylor, Deborah Chase, Mayor Jack Crawford, Chip Davidson, Steve Colwell, Elodie Morse
#WHYILOVEKENMORE

SUMMER PARTY
AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

AUGUST 25TH
2018

KENMORE TOWN SQUARE
6728 NORTHEAST 181ST STREET
KENMORE, WASHINGTON

4PM - 8PM

FOR PARKING & EVENT INFO VISIT:
KENMOREWA.GOV/EVENTS

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Bothell-Kenmore Reporter, BowWow Fun Towne, Buyers’ Choice, Cooley Smiles, Eastside Natural Medicine, LLC, Kenmore Camera, Kenmore Grocery Outlet, Kenmore Pediatric Dentistry, Kenmore Veterinary Hospital, Maser’s Grooming and Pet Boutique, Minahan Dental, Northshore Utility District, Republic Services, Snapdoodle Toys
As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary, you may be wondering how and why did Kenmore become a city? It is a story of community identity, leadership and civic engagement!

In 1990, the WA State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act to control “urban sprawl”. As a result, King County classified the Kenmore community as an urban area with three options -- create a new city, be annexed parcel by parcel into surrounding Bothell, Kirkland and Lake Forest Park, or do nothing and allow King County to determine the future path of the community.

In 1994, David Maehren, a Kenmore resident and Captain with the King County Sheriff’s Office, contacted King County Council to organize a 21-member Government Strategies Committee to study potential forms of government. The team, all Kenmore residents, worked for a year, surveyed the community and held public meetings at local schools to discuss the three options. The Kenmore community already had a very strong identity and did not want to be divided. Most residents preferred to become a city. They did not feel King County could continue to represent their interests. Many residents grew increasingly concerned about recent county land use decisions. At one time, as many as 14 adult entertainment businesses were being planned for Kenmore!

Shortly after an infamous meeting on Maehren’s back deck in 1995 with another Kenmore resident and attorney Kinnon Williams, the Citizens for Incorporation of Kenmore was formed. Co-chaired by Maehren and Teresa Michelsen, the small team embarked on a well-organized three-year long effort to educate the community, successfully vote to incorporate and establish the democratic processes needed to elect the city’s first City Council.

“We started with no money and no defined process. Sometimes you don’t think about how hard something might be. You just start taking small steps forward. - Dave”

“Many neighboring cities advised us early in the campaign to find an opponent, maybe really paint King County as our enemy. But that wasn’t us. That wasn’t what the Kenmore community was about. We crafted a positive campaign focused on education, not divisive issues. We worked closely with other cities and King County, often meeting with neighboring city councils and residents as we worked out boundaries.” Dave remembers thinking, “We have no money and no defined process. But, we do have a great group of volunteers and a passionate, involved community. So, we can do this!” He laughs when recalling they all thought it would take “about a year” to become a city.

Educational materials and signage played a large role in the community outreach. As the team met with the community, they provided a color-coded portfolio of brochures on topics of property taxes, police/fire/utility services, permitting, infrastructure and governance structure.
Jo Ann Evans, a community leader and graphic designer volunteered countless hours. She remembers driving down the highway and seeing the old Kenmore Baptist Church readerboard that usually had witty slogans and funny sayings (now the Kenmore Community Church). On that day, it simply said “Should Kenmore Incorporate?”

The team led more than 500 volunteers to knock on doors, plan meetings at local schools, and operate a phone bank from Plywood Supply.

Jo Ann showed us a bright yellow door hangar and yard signs used to canvas the area and said “Well, the pizza places were all using this color at the time, so we thought that must be the hot color!” When asked about the decision to have a city manager structure, Jo Ann said there really wasn’t much debate. “We were a small community. We believed hiring a career professional rather than relying on an elected strong mayor would be best for leading our new city. I felt strongly about this, as did Dave Maehren and others.”

Both Dave and Jo Ann continued their community service. Dave is a Fire District Commissioner and Jo Ann is currently the Kenmore Heritage Society President. Many in the community refer to Dave as the “Father of Kenmore”. We asked him what he thought about that and he said, with some emotion, “That makes me very proud. It’s a good feeling to know that our community is represented now by their own neighbors and Kenmore residents.”

Sometimes you get more done with a small group of hardworking, intelligent and passionate people working together - all towards the same goal. We knew we were building Kenmore’s reputation.

- Jo Ann
Citizens for Incorporation of Kenmore formed
Extensive community education campaign is launched

1995

1996

1998

1999

2000

2002

2004

1996 - Sept 16, vote to incorporate passes with overwhelming 70% “yes”!

Working for the next two years, committee coordinates campaigns and elections for interim City Council

August 31, 1998 Incorporated!

1998 - Kenmore Heritage Society and Arts of Kenmore founded

1999 - Interim council re-elected

1999 - First Planning Commission formed

2000 - City joins eCity Gov Alliance, which paves way for later online permit processing

2001 - First Comprehensive Plan completed

2003 - City adopts Downtown Plan and begins assembling properties for development

2003 - Park Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted

Now our largest employer, Bastyr University moves from Seattle to Kenmore

May 8, 1998, interim City Council elected and hires city staff. Jack Crawford selected as first mayor of Kenmore

August 1999, staff moves into their new City Hall, the old Wells Fargo bank, now a U.S. Post Office!

Incorporation Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Kenmore Heritage Society
2006 - City purchases property for new City Hall

2005 - Logboom Park Master Plan is completed

2007 - First phase of construction begins on SR 522 improvements

2009 - First Economic Development Strategy

2010 - New City Hall opens for business! LEED Gold Certified

2011 - Kenmore Library opens!

Northshore Fire Station 51 Opens

2012 - Kenmore engages in new strategic planning process for downtown, kickstarting what you see today at the Town Square

2013 - Kenmore Business Incubator launches

2014 - Northshore Summit Park Opens

2014 - City enters into purchase and sale agreement with downtown developer to transform combined Kenmore Village properties into recognizable downtown

2015 - 2018: Almost $100M invested in downtown Kenmore! Spencer 68 and LINQ complete, bringing in 291 new residential units and 20,000 sq ft. of commercial space, home to the EvergreenHealth Clinic

2007 - 2016: Over $80M invested to improve the SR-522 streetscape between 61st and 83rd Avenues NE

2016 - First bond measure passed to finance five Walkways and Waterways projects - passed with 64% voter approval!
Pedestrian safety and connectivity continues to be a community priority. In the Summer of 2001, our first sidewalk project was completed at NE 155th St! We also had major sidewalk projects on 62nd Ave NE, NE 202nd and NE 181st.

Since incorporation, more than 31,000 linear feet of sidewalk has been constructed, with more than 20,000 more planned in the next 6-year Capital Improvement Program! Not sure how much sidewalk that is? That’s enough sidewalk to walk from St. Edward State Park all the way to the Alderwood Mall in Lynnwood!

Planning for sidewalks, we use criteria such as pedestrian safety, connection to services and facilities, completion of links in the system, connection to transit, proximity to a school and public support.

During the City’s recent 2015 “Imagine Kenmore” public outreach initiative, our community confirmed that sidewalks and bike lanes on major roads and connecting residents with the City’s public waterfront are still top priorities. The resulting Walkways & Waterways bond measure will fund new community requested sidewalks and bike lanes on Juanita Drive and 68th Ave, from Kenmore’s southern city limit to its northern city limit, which will be completed by 2023.
In 2015 the City initiated a citizen-driven traffic safety program known as the Neighborhood Transportation Plan Program. Residents were asked what traffic safety improvements they would like to see in their own neighborhoods. Our city traffic engineer met with neighborhoods from 12 geographic areas of Kenmore throughout 2015 and 2016. At each neighborhood meeting, residents shared what traffic safety issues they experience and requested improvements to address concerns. After hearing from the community, Kenmore planned and installed 90 traffic safety improvements throughout our neighborhoods, investing $340K into traffic safety. We continue to focus on traffic safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

In 2018 we completed the Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP). This plan looked at areas throughout the City where safety improvements could be made on the City’s roads (excluding SR-522). Certain criteria were evaluated and a list of projects was created and, over the next several years, the City plans to implement these projects as funding allows. The LRSP includes projects such as adding bike lanes, enhancing school walk routes, intersection adjustments, and a variety of traffic calming measures.

More than 90 improvements
$340,000 investment

The LRSP can be found on the City’s website located at http://www.kenmorewa.gov/transportation. If you have concerns with roads or signage, or have suggestions for traffic calming, please let us know by sending a Citizen Action Request at kenmorewa.gov/reportaconcern.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Street lighting
- Lane striping and directional arrows
- Signage
- New crosswalks with rectangular rapid flashing beacons
- “Your Speed” feedback signs
- Vegetation management
- Adding pavement
With over 100 acres of city-owned park land within eight parks and a wide variety of recreational events, it’s not hard to see why Kenmore is recognized as a “Playful City USA” community by the non-profit Kaboom - one of only a couple hundred communities across the U.S. to earn this designation.

In 2003 the City adopted its first Park Recreation and Open Space Plan that provided the vision for park development.

Between 2003 and 2013 the City invested over $4 million at several parks, including Rhododendron and Log Boom Parks, including restrooms, walkways, play equipment, and landscaping.

Between 2014 and 2017 the City invested more than $6 million in park improvements. In 2014 Northshore Summit Park park was developed and in 2015 the City built a new skate park. In 2016 a new pedestrian bridge linked public access between Log Boom Park and the adjoining marina. In 2017 improvements to Moorlands Park were finished including new restroom, picnic shelter, athletic field renovation, walkways and play equipment. The Town Square and Hangar building at the heart of downtown was completed in 2017 providing a thriving community gathering space.

The City has over seven miles of shoreline on Lake Washington and the Sammamish River. We have invested over $500,000 to improve handcarry watercraft launch facilities including installing a seasonal float in 2014 at Log Boom Park, and in 2017 building a new dock at Rhododendron Park and a replacement dock at Squires Landing.

The City also partnered with the Kenmore Waterfront Activity Center and the Northshore School District to provide
programs for rowing, kayaking, dragon boating, and stand up paddle boards.

The community’s desire to connect to the waterfront has been strongly expressed since incorporation and in 2016 the Walkways & Waterways bond measure was passed providing $10 million dollars to improve water access at Rhododendron, Squires Landing and Log Boom Parks.

The new walkway at Rhododendron Park connecting the grass play area through the wetland to the Sammamish River was completed in 2017. Water access improvements to Lake Washington at Log Boom Park including each expansion, trails, picnic facilities, access for handcarry watercraft along with environmental enhancements are planned for 2023. Water access improvements to the Sammamish River at Squire’s Landing are also planned for 2023 and include natural open space restoration, trails, boardwalks, viewing points, new docks for handcarry watercraft, parking and a restroom.
SR 522 ENHANCEMENTS
Over $80M has been invested to improve the SR 522 streetscape between 61st and 83rd Avenues NE!

Since incorporation, Kenmore has completed several improvements to SR 522 (Bothell Way) to increase safety, improve transit reliability, and ease congestion. Improvements included adding new traffic signals, street lighting and sidewalks, widening for Business Access and Transit lanes, enhancing the corridor with new landscaping and medians to improve access management, replacing the Swamp Creek Bridge, undergrounding utilities, and more.

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT
Before incorporation, Kenmore property owners and residents faced significant flooding issues. The City has invested in stormwater improvements that have reduced flooding in the City.

Some of the most significant projects include the 73rd Ave NE bridge, NE 192nd St Culvert Replacement, NE 170th St Culvert Replacement and SR 522 drainage improvements.
Kenmore adopted a Downtown Plan in 2003 and began assembling 9.6 acres of property in the Kenmore Village area. In 2012, the City started a new strategic planning process to transform the combined properties into a walkable, recognizable Town Square. The iconic Hangar opened in 2017 and is a unique community gathering space featuring a double-sided fireplace and eclectic array of comfortable furniture creating a warm and intimate space to read, work on homework, meet with friends, or simply hang out.

Connected to the Hangar by an airplane hangar-style door that can remain open on warmer days, the Town Square is a public plaza that offers the perfect place to meet with friends or spend time outdoors. Home to events throughout the year, the Town Square features a “dock”, water feature, bike maintenance station, and more.
FUN FACTS

POPULATION
1998 = 18,000
2018 = 22,357

Average # Permits Processed a Year ➡️ 876

MEDIAN HOME SALES PRICE
1998 = $210,000
2017 = $675,000

# CITIZEN ACTION REQUESTS
1998 = 171
2017 = 1,761

CURRENT # HOMES
Single-family detached...........6,521
Multi-family................................2,468
Mobile Homes............................287
Total Units..............................9,276
25-mile trip for a permit?

Twenty years ago, the permit process looked a lot different! Back then, Kenmore was served by King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, whose office was located in Renton, approximately 25 miles south of Kenmore! Obtaining a permit meant driving to Renton to make an application. It also meant stopping at the print shop to print multiple copies of full-size plans. Obtaining permits was costly, time consuming, and inconvenient for residents.

When the City incorporated, permit services were moved to Kenmore City Hall and driving to Renton became a thing of the past. Bringing permit services closer to residents was essential, and solved one problem. However, city officials wanted to do more than that; they wanted to provide residents with higher quality services than before. That meant transitioning from a paper-based system, to an electric system.

In the early 2000s, the City joined the eCityGov Alliance, a non-profit organization providing consistent cross-jurisdictional services to municipalities in our region. One such service is Mybuildingpermit.com. Mybuildingpermit.com is an online permitting tool which connects customers to the City. The tool is streamlined across jurisdictions and provides a consistent experience for the customer.

By providing residents with online permit services, efficiency was increased and permits were processed faster than ever before. The online system also reduced the City’s overall paper-consumption.

Development Services staff members are also available in-person at the permit counter. The City’s Permit Specialist, Building Plans Examiner, Code Compliance Officer, Land Use Planner, Civil Engineer, Department Director are all available in-person at the permit counter; for hours and availability go to kenmorewa.gov/developmentservices.

The Development Services Department is small (but nimble!) and available by phone at 425-398-8900 or via e-mail at permittech@kenmorewa.gov.

MEETING & OTHER INFORMATION

Kenmore City Council regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of the month at Kenmore City Hall, and are open to the public. Live stream and on-demand Council meeting videos can be found at www.kenmorewa.gov/council.

Coffee with Council is held the first Monday at 7:30 a.m. and third Saturday at 8:00 a.m. of each month at Diva Espresso in the Hangar, 6728 NE 181st Street. Coffees will not be held in August or September 3rd due to Labor Day.

Kenmore Planning Commission meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Kenmore City Hall. Meeting agendas and schedules are available online at www.kenmorewa.gov/planningcommission.

Kenmore Business Alliance meets the first Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Kenmore City Hall.

Licensing your pet gives your pet an inexpensive insurance policy for its safety and protection and is legally required. www.kenmorewa.gov/animalservices.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Flooding/Drainage (after hours) ..........206-296-8100
Northshore Fire Department ..........425-354-1780
Kenmore City Hall .........................425-398-8900
Kenmore Library .........................425-486-8747
Regional Animal Services of King Co. ....206-296-PETS
Northshore Utility District .................425-398-4400
PAWS (animal shelter) .................425-787-2500
Police/Fire Emergency .................911
Police Nonemergency Dispatch ........206-296-3311
Puget Sound Energy .....................888-225-5773
Republic Services .......................206-682-9730
Street Concerns (after hours) ..........206-296-8100
Spills/Illicit Discharge (after hours) .....206-296-8100