



Kenmore Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014



Native Plant Steward volunteer Lisa Wood leads a group of volunteers at a park restoration event.

The Official Newsletter of the City of Kenmore, Washington

For the Love of Kenmore: Connecting with Your City

Do you love Kenmore? Do you feel a connection with the people who live, commute, and thrive here? As Peter Kageyama, author of *For the Love of Cities*, writes, "when we love something, we cherish it; we protect it; we do extraordinary things for it." Kenmore will not prosper without the buy-in and love of its citizens. I really believe Kenmore is your City, and it needs active love and attention to truly thrive.

This newsletter provides ways you can set yourself on a course to help improve your Kenmore by getting involved and giving back during the rainy and debris-riddled fall and winter months. We provide information in such areas as who to call when a street light is out, responsibility for trimming vegetation adjacent to your home, and driving in inclement weather, among many other timely issues.

City staff is here to help and works hard to keep streets, pathways, and storm drains well-maintained. But we can't be everywhere at once. We need your help and the City needs your love! For example, with over 4,000 drains throughout the City, we

need proactive work by our citizens to clear these when clogged by debris. You can also help out and form connections with other citizens by volunteering on a park clean-up project or lending a hand to a neighbor in need of assistance. There are many ways to improve your connection and investment in the City. Be creative!

Investing in your yard, your home, and the community will increase your own satisfaction. When you are more invested in your community, you will want to spend more time in it.

Our small actions create the Kenmore we experience every day. During the coming months, we encourage you to make decisions that improve the outcomes and happiness in the City: be courteous, be safe, be helpful, and be a good neighbor. When Kenmore thrives, we're all happier for it.

Sincerely,

David Baker, Mayor



Kenmore residents and members of the Kenmore Heritage Society clean the Kenmore History Path signage at Log Boom Park.



Girl Scouts added reflective tape to pedestrian flags for crosswalks in Kenmore.

Business

The new Kenmore Business Directory is live! Thank you to the 700 businesses that have completed their **Kenmore Business Registration** over the past few months. If you have a business or nonprofit located in Kenmore, chances are you are now required to get a Kenmore Business Registration. It's easy to register—you can go online to the Washington Department of Revenue Business Licensing Services website, <http://business.wa.gov/BLS> or call 1-800-451-7985. When you register, you can also opt-in to be listed in the Kenmore Business Directory.

Save the date! The **Kenmore Business Open House** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Kenmore City Hall. Meet up with other local business people and hear about what's happening in Kenmore. The event is co-sponsored by the Kenmore Business Alliance.



Questions? Visit the City of Kenmore website, www.kenmorewa.gov or call Nancy Ousley, Assistant City Manager at 425-398-8900.

Meet Your Council



Moving Together for a Safer Kenmore

The City of Kenmore has invested significantly in our roads and safety infrastructure. These investments represent grants, matching funds, City funds and other tax dollars that directly or indirectly come from our citizens and taxpayers. While there will always be a list of necessary City improvements for our trails, walkways and roads, there are also steps that our citizens can take to increase their own safety and the safety of others.

The recent pedestrian and bicycle related deaths in Kenmore have had an impact on me. It has not only forced me to rethink how we engineer and fund our infrastructure and safety improvements, but also refreshed my perspective on how I approach walking, biking and driving. As a driver, I am more aware of my surroundings and the necessity to avoid phone use and other distractions. As a pedestrian and a dog walker, I can do a better job of making eye contact with drivers and in increasing my visibility and awareness to the vehicles on the road. As a bicyclist, I am working towards creating more positive

interactions with other vehicles that I share the road with and understanding that my mindset and perspective will have a direct impact on my safety and bicycling experience. Change is hard to make all at once, but a change in thinking and awareness will contribute to a safer Kenmore.

In September, your City Council accepted the final report from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Ad Hoc Citizen Committee that was established to discuss and analyze what additional safety improvements could be made in Kenmore. We will work to incorporate those long-term and short-term recommendations into our stated goals and priorities and into our budget discussions so that we can continue to improve our City. We represent you, and it is our responsibility to correctly balance the City budget and to make the appropriate safety improvements. With limitations to funding options we know that there are financial constraints impacting the safety improvements that we are able to make. Recognizing that not all safety improvements are financially driven we need to

continue to reach out to our citizens to help us with the process of making Kenmore a safer place.

As citizens we have a shared responsibility in the creation of a safe community. This includes me, your elected representative, but it also includes all of us who drive vehicles and ride bicycles on our roadways and that walk on our streets. We can do more to educate ourselves and our children about pedestrian and bicycle safety. With small changes in our awareness and behavior we can create a safer environment for our kids, our cyclists and even our drivers.

Your City Council and staff will continue to lead and invest in public safety improvements but we alone cannot make Kenmore safer - we also need our citizens to partner with us in recognizing that we all benefit with a greater awareness of education and safety while we walk, bike and drive our streets.

Brent Smith
Brent Smith, Councilmember

Target Zero Initiative: Education, Enforcement, Engineering

As part of its Target Zero Initiative to eliminate serious bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities as a result of vehicle collisions by 2025, the City of Kenmore is hard at work promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety around the City. As the chart illustrates, this is an achievable goal, but will require everyone in the community taking responsibility and doing their part to make Kenmore safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

On October 8, City staff and volunteers took part in National Walk to School Day by handing out safety vests and flashing lights at Arrowhead and Moorlands Elementary, and on-site safety education at Kenmore Elementary. Changing behavior is only once piece of the puzzle. Kenmore has recently made safety improvements to school zones and major arterials such as Juanita Drive, and ramped up enforcement.

The Kenmore Police Department has used a motorcycle patrol officer from the King County Sheriff's Office to assist with enforcement of laws pertaining to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Since March 2014, as a result of the increased patrol, officers have issued about 200 tickets for related violations. We will continue to be vigilant in our enforcement efforts to ensure the safety of ALL road users.

The most common violations we have encountered are:

- Motorist failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- Distracted driving, e.g. talking on cell phones, etc.
- Pedestrians failing to use a crosswalk, when provided.
- Bicyclist failing to obey the rules of the road and not wearing helmets.

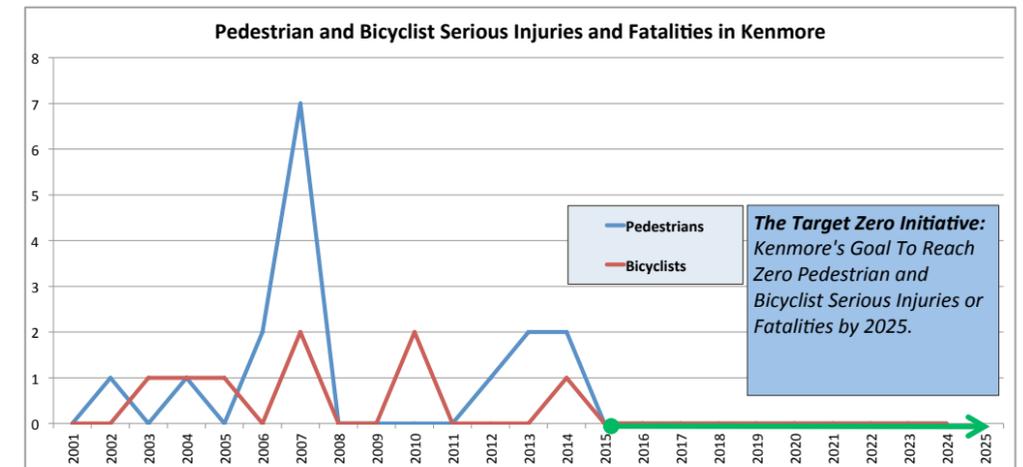
Road user safety is everyone's responsibility. Slow down and focus on the roadway and obey all the rules of the road.

Safety Tips for Driver

- Drivers must stop and remained stopped to allow a pedestrian or bicyclists to cross the roadway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk and remained stopped while the pedestrian or bi-

cyclists are upon their half of the roadway. ("Half of roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction).

- **Look Twice!** Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians while making turns, exiting driveways and parking lots, and opening your car door on on-street parking.
- **Don't be distracted!** Texting and talking on a hand held device while driving is illegal in Washington. Both are primary offenses.



Safety Tips for Pedestrians & Bicyclists

- No pedestrian or bicyclist shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run or otherwise move into the path of a vehicle, which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to stop.
- Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a rate of speed less than the normal flow of traffic shall ride as near to the right side of the right through lane as is safe.
- **Stop. Look. And Listen.** While walking down streets, approaching intersections, and crossing busy streets, please stop what you are doing, turn down the volume, look where you are going, and listen for traffic.
- **Be seen!** Increase your visibility by wearing lighter-colored and reflective clothing.
- **Pedestrians should walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic when there is no sidewalk.** This allows you and the driver to see each other.

For more traffic safety tips, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/targetzero.



City Councilman Brent Smith has made positive changes while walking, biking, and driving in Kenmore and elsewhere. He is seen here on one of his routine walks from home in the Inglewood neighborhood to Saint Edward State Park. Smith is working on improved visibility and eye contact with drivers.



The crosswalk at NE 160th Street along Juanita Drive NE was relocated slightly north to allow for the addition of a refuge island and Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon's (RRFB) as part of the City's Target Zero Safety Initiative.

Lights Out?

Is there a street light out in your neighborhood or maybe on your way to school or work? Have you seen a street light that is on during the day? Did you know that the City does not maintain street lights within the City limits? Puget Sound Energy maintains all of the street lights within Kenmore.

Reporting an outage or problem is something you can do, and it is really easy! PSE has a division called Intolight responsible for maintaining street lights. You can submit an outage report online or by phone. To submit online go to www.intolight.com or call 1-888-225-5773.

Let's improve safety in our neighborhoods together!

Keeping our neighborhoods safe is something we all want! We can all do something to help improve safety on our streets and in our neighborhoods! Here is what YOU can do:



Is walking your primary mode of transportation? Be seen, be safe! Use crosswalks safely, make certain that drivers can see you before entering the roadway. Refrain from wearing earbuds or listening to music, don't text and walk, don't assume drivers will see you and stop. Wear something reflective so you can be visible at night.



Is a bike your vehicle of choice? Be seen, be safe! Wear a helmet. If you are riding on the roadway, follow the rules of the road! Be aware of what is going on around you, use crosswalks safely, and make certain vehicles are stopped and see you before crossing. Wear reflective gear or use lights so you can be seen at night. Need a bike helmet? Low cost helmets are available at City Hall.



Be aware of school zones! School zones in Kenmore are marked with alternating amber flashing lights and/or "when children are present" speed limit signs. Please remember when the amber flashing lights are operating or children are present the speed limit is reduced to 20 mph. Officers regularly enforce the school zone speed limits. Fines for speeding range from \$189 (1-5 mph over) to \$784 (35 mph over). With parents dropping off and picking up their children, the school year can also lead to more traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons. So be patient, plan accordingly, and remember it's not about getting to your destination as fast as you can but the safety of the children.



Help keep our neighborhoods safe for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists by keeping your vegetation tidy and trimmed! Did you know that property owners are responsible for vegetation that goes out to the street? This includes sidewalks, planting strips, shoulders, walkways and roadside drainage ditches. Although vegetation may be planted in the right-of-way, it is still the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Keeping the vegetation maintained improves site distance for all modes of transportation. As colder weather approaches, keep sidewalks maintained of snow, ice, debris, litter, garbage or any other matter which impedes the normal flow of pedestrian traffic. Help elderly or disabled neighbors with their property.



Start a Block Watch Program. A block watch is a meeting of neighbors with a police officer to discuss home safety and neighborhood safety in order to lessen the chances of you becoming a victim of crime. Topics generally covered in the block watch meeting include: alarms, home lighting, locks on entry points, landscaping, operation identification, vandalism, vehicle prowls and bicycle theft prevention. Contact the Kenmore Police Department at 206-296-5020 for more information.



Watch your speed! Be aware of your speed in your neighborhood and watch for pedestrians and cyclists! Citizens may check out a radar gun at City Hall for a 48-hour period. Not only can this give you a better idea if speeding is actually a problem in your neighborhood, but it could help remind folks to pay attention to that speedometer. You can also request the speed radar trailer to be deployed in your neighborhood. Contact City Hall at 425-398-8900 for more information.

Did you know that the Police Department offers house checks? The House Check Program is available to Kenmore residents who are planning to be out of town for one week or longer. While you are away, a Kenmore police volunteer will check the exterior of your residence, several times a week to ensure the doors and windows are secured and have not been damaged. In the event a door or window is found open or damaged, a Police Officer will be dispatched to check your residence. We will then contact either you, or a person you have designated on the form, to respond and secure the residence.

Apply to be a Police Citizen Volunteer. The Kenmore Police Department "Citizen Volunteer Program" allows residents to participate in wide variety of community programs, e.g. house checks, delivery of citations to the court, false alarm enforcement, community traffic safety, storefront clerk and more.

The following are the qualifications to become a Kenmore Police Volunteer:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Pass a background check
- Complete a polygraph examination
- Be willing to commit to four hours of service a month

Volunteers are given any necessary equipment including proper identification.

Protect your home from crime

Burglary is a crime that threatens all homes, but especially those which provide criminals with the "opportunity" to intrude, steal and escape undetected. The number one prevention tip to avoid becoming a victim of a burglary is to lock all doors, windows and garage doors whether you are at home or away. Provided below is a burglary prevention checklist to help you reduce your risk of becoming a victim:

- Are your doors fitted with dead-bolt locks?
- Do you lock your porch and garage?
- Do you lock your doors when away from home for short periods?
- Do you lock the doors out of your view when working in the yard?
- Do you avoid leaving keys hidden near access doors?
- Are your windows fitted with locks and do you lock them?
- Are sliding doors and windows secured

- with a track pin or Charlie bar?
- Do you keep tools, ladders, etc. in places inaccessible to potential burglars?
- Do you store lawn mowers, leaf blowers, gas barbeques, etc. out of sight when not in use?
- Do you light the outside of your home to discourage prowling or loitering?
- When you move to a new residence do you hire a reliable locksmith to re-key all locks?
- Do you change your locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen?
- Do you leave lights on and a radio playing when out for short periods?
- Have you marked your valuables or recorded serial numbers for identification?

If you answered no to any of the above, you have the opportunity to improve your home security.

This holiday season, be extra alert about

people loitering in your neighborhood scouring through mailboxes or searching for packages left on doorsteps. Mail theft is always at the all time high during this time of year. Do not put any mail that contains checks, money orders or cash in your street side mailbox. These envelopes should always be mailed from inside the post office. Remember the mailbox flag is an invitation to steal your mail.

You may feel additional home security is an unnecessary financial burden, but consider that home security is not renewable. It is one of the few ways you can permanently protect your family, yourself and your home.

The Kenmore Police Department is offering all citizens a free home security survey. If you are interested in setting up an appointment for a survey, contact Chief Sether at 206-477-7455.

Managing Surface Water on Your Property

Managing surface water, which includes Lake Washington, streams, wetlands, stormwater runoff and groundwater, can be a complicated task for both public and private property owners. There are always unique situations, but in general surface water is considered the “common enemy” to all property owners.

Property owners are responsible for managing water that flows to their property and are allowed to let it flow from their property along its natural drainage course. Alteration of surface water is controlled through development permits, which require new developments to control surface water changes (i.e. increased runoff from a new home or driveway) and failure to obtain permits is considered a negligent act by the property owner. However, surface water patterns may also change over time throughout a drainage basin which can affect how surface water impacts any particular property, both private and public.

The City manages surface water on public properties,

which includes roads, parks, City Hall and other publicly-owned real properties and tracts, and easements that have been dedicated to the City for the purpose of managing surface water. Private property owners are responsible for managing surface water on and across their property. City staff can provide technical assistance and help private property owners identify potential issues, but staff cannot recommend specific courses of action or conduct any work on private property.

If you have a private property drainage issue, follow these recommended steps: 1) check your private drainage facilities (downspouts, footing drains, yard drains, stormwater pipes, etc.) and determine if they need maintenance; 2) communicate with your neighbors and see if their drainage facilities are functioning properly; and 3) check your irrigation/water system for issues. During fall, it is also a good idea to check drains and pipes adjacent to your property, which may be clogged with leaves and debris.

Caring for your yard and home yields dividends

Your home is probably the biggest financial investment you will make in your lifetime, and it's important to do all you can to care for it. Every step you take to care for your yard and home will benefit you and your family in the future.

In addition to improving the aesthetics of your home, it's also important to maintain the condition of your home for the safety and comfort of your friends and family. Regular maintenance can often help prevent costly repairs. A simple way to track maintenance tasks is to create a maintenance checklist and go through it on a regular basis – this can be in the form of a “to-do” list.

Not only does caring for your home and yard protect the value of your home, it also contributes to the attractiveness of the neighborhood. Your yard is an extension of your home, and although it can be a lot of work to get it in tip-top shape, once it's done you'll reap the benefits and enjoy spending time in your yard (or just simply admiring it). Sprucing-up your yard will probably

encourage your neighbors to do the same. But unfortunately, you may have a neighbor that needs help caring for their home or yard; reach out to them.



Kenmore's 2013 Beautification Award winner for Best Curb Appeal

Do you have a concern about a neighboring property? Concerns may be that the yard and landscape is not maintained, an old car with a flat tire is parked in the driveway, or junk is scattered throughout the front yard. The City has regulations in the Kenmore Municipal Code (KMC)

to address some “eyesores” but not all of them. Instead of quickly filing a complaint with the City, we strongly encourage you to speak to your neighbor about your concerns. Sometimes all it takes is a conversation

to resolve the problem. Your neighbor may appreciate the opportunity to address the concern prior to City involvement. By talking with your neighbor you create an environment of open communication and responsibility. If the concern isn't resolved by a conversation, you may want to consider using a mediator to facilitate your discussion and resolve the dispute.

The City wants you to enjoy a pleasant and beautiful neighborhood. Caring for your yard and home will

make your home and your neighborhood happy for years to come. The City holds an annual beautification contest to acknowledge aesthetic improvements throughout the community. For details, visit www.kenmorewa.gov.

Driving in Inclement Weather

Wind, rain, ice and snow always bring challenges. Here are some tips and reminders to keep you safe on the road during our fall and winter weather conditions!



- Plan ahead, check the local forecast.
- Watch for “Street Closed” signs. They are placed by crews for your safety.
- Give yourself plenty of time. Inclement weather always causes traffic backups and delays. Reduce your stress of being on time by leaving a little early.
- Take it slow - rain, ice and snow can create hazardous driving conditions.
- Do not attempt to drive through standing water; even small amounts of water can stall your car. Don't risk it, take an alternate route.

- Stay away from downed power lines. Assume any electrical wires are energized.
- When the power is out and traffic signals are not functioning, treat them as an all way stop unless directed otherwise by Police or Public Works.
- When the weather appears to be extreme, keep off the road and stay home. Only venture out if you need to.
- Don't let your fuel tank get too low! You never know if you'll get stuck in traffic and run out of fuel.

For more information on inclement weather and emergency preparedness, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/preparedness.



Prepare Now for a Disaster Later



A natural disaster can strike at any time. Knowing what to do before, during and after a disaster is a critical part of being prepared. Preparing for a disaster can seem like a daunting task but can be simplified by taking three easy steps.

- 1 Prepare yourself and your family** for a disaster by making an emergency plan – start by talking to your family about what you should do in case of an emergency or disaster. Your family's emergency plan should include a family communication plan, how to care for your pets, access and functional needs, a preidentified post-disaster meeting place, and how to shut off the utilities. It's important to have this conversation so that everyone in your home knows what to do in case of a disaster.
- 2 Build a disaster supply kit.** This kit is simply a collection of basic items you and your family may need in the event of an emergency. You may need to survive on your own after a disaster, so the kit should be sufficient to last for a minimum of 72 hours. This can be a fun project for your family to work on together. Have kids help by filling the kit with supplies you have collected. The kit should be stored in an accessible location such as a pantry or hall closet. If the kit contains items unsafe for small children or pets make sure to store it in a place that they cannot easily access it.
- 3 Get involved.** Talk to your neighbors about disaster preparedness and find opportunities to support community preparedness.

For additional information, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/preparedness.

Plan the actions everyone in your family would take during and after a disaster. Assemble a disaster kit to keep next to your door, in your car, and at work.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES TO INCLUDE IN A DISASTER KIT
Store the following in an easy to carry bag or backpack:

- Water one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and manual can opener
- Change of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy shoes
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Unique family needs, such as instant formula or diapers, daily prescription medications, pet food, and important family documents
- Important Items, such as extra keys, insurance policy information, account numbers, phone numbers, personal ID, and cash in small bills

Remember to rotate and update your supplies every 6 months

Meeting & Other Information

Kenmore City Council regular meetings occur on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of the month at Kenmore City Hall. Meetings are open to the public, and public comments are accepted at the beginning of regular, non-study session meetings. Meeting agendas and schedules are available online at www.kenmorewa.gov/council or contact the City Clerk's Office at 425-398-8900.

Coffee with Council returns in January 2015. Citizens are encouraged to attend these informal sessions to ask questions, discuss issues and offer suggestions on any topic of interest. For the schedule, visit www.kenmorewa.gov.

Kenmore Planning Commission holds meetings 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 Library Advisory Board holds meetings on the first Thursday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. at the Kenmore Library.

City News & Meeting Information is distributed through the City's listserv. Sign up to receive information by emailing cityhall@kenmorewa.gov.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is set for Friday, December 5 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Kenmore City Hall and Kenmore Camera. Free activities, Santa, and more! For details, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/events.

Nuisance Odor Complaints: If you live or work in Kenmore you can file a nuisance odor complaint by contacting the City. The City recently entered into an interlocal agreement with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for cooperative odor complaint investigations. This program is a temporary six-month trial arrangement. For details, visit www.kenmorewa.gov.

Good Numbers to Know

City Hall. 425-398-8900
Police/Fire Emergency 911
Police Nonemergency Dispatch . . . 206-296-3311
Police Nonemergency Information . 206-205-7656
Fire Department Headquarters . . . 425-354-1780
Flooding/Drainage (after hours) . . 206-296-8100
Spills/Illicit Discharge (after hours). 206-296-8100
Street Concerns (after hours) . . . 206-296-8100
King County Animal Control . . . 206-296-PETS
Republic Services Co. 206-682-9730
Kenmore Library 425-486-8747
Puget Sound Energy 888-225-5773
Northshore Utility District 425-398-4400

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Help Keep Drains Clear of Leaves to Prevent Urban Flooding

Clean storm drains help prevent localized flooding. City crews work to keep storm drains clear, but with over 4,000 drains in Kenmore, we could use your help! With your assistance, we can keep streets safe and clear and can reduce property damage caused by flooding.



What should I do with all of the leaves?

- Rake leaves away from storm drains near your house or business.
- Do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening.
- Dispose of leaves in your yard waste container or compost bin.

Street Sweeping

The City will continue to provide street sweeping service, not only to keep streets clean, but also to keep debris from blocking the storm drains and ditches to help minimize any flooding. Street sweeping begins mid- to late-October and continues through January. During this time frame, arterial streets are swept monthly and residential streets are swept every other month.

To Report Severe Flooding

If localized flooding is severe and you are unable to clear the drain, please call Kenmore City Hall at 425-398-8900 during business hours, or after-hours call King County Dispatch at 206-296-8100.

Free Sandbags Available to Residents

The City of Kenmore has deployed sandbags at four designated locations for use during the flood season. Please notify the City prior to taking sandbags by calling 425-398-8900. This will allow the City to track the number of sandbags used and to refill the locations.

Near Kenmore Elementary
NE 192nd St & 73rd Ave NE

Rhododendron Park
6910 NE 170th St

Log Boom Park
61st Ave NE & NE 175th St

Arrowhead Drive
67th Ave NE & NE 155th St

For a location map, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/preparedness