DOWNTOWN KENMORE CONTINUES ON UPWARD TRAJECTORY

Since incorporation in 1998, the City of Kenmore has set out to create a new downtown. When Kenmore’s Town Square and the Hangar opened in August 2017, changes had already begun taking shape.

Fifteen years ago the City started assembling land in downtown Kenmore, which has been guided by policies encouraging new public investments such as the City Hall (2010) and Kenmore Library (2011). The City sold the assembled land to the private sector on conditions of redevelopment, resulting in Kenmore Camera’s new store and almost $100 million invested by MainStreet Property Group; bringing in 291 new residential units and 20,000 sq ft. of commercial space which is home to the EvergreenHealth Clinic. Seattle-based coffee shop Diva Espresso joined as retail tenants in the Hangar in Summer 2017. Most recently, Red Barn Engineering, a woman-owned Kenmore business that started in the Kenmore Business Incubator, has grown and moved to downtown Kenmore earlier this year.

In Fall 2018, Kenmore will be seeing one more addition to its downtown core. Seaplane Kitchen + Bar, a 5,000 square foot sit-down restaurant, will be touching ground just west of the Hangar. A collaboration by the owners of several popular Seattle restaurants, Seaplane Kitchen + Bar will feature American fare with a family-friendly dining area. There will also be a 3,000 square foot office space adjacent to restaurant available to lease.

In addition to the new restaurant, downtown developer MainStreet plans to begin construction on a mixed-use (commercial and residential) building fronting 68th Avenue NE, just north of the Hangar, later this year.

Reshaping Kenmore’s core isn’t just about constructing new buildings. In May 2017, the City added 1,100 feet of eight-foot wide sidewalks on both sides of NE 181st Street and required the developer to install new sidewalks and underground utilities on 68th Avenue NE across from City Hall. The completion of the Tolt Trail in August 2017 also enhanced accessibility between downtown Kenmore and nearing residential neighborhoods.

All these investments are complementing what the City envisions as a walkable, signature downtown where people can gather, interact, and have an authentic, local sense of place.
FUNDING SECURED FOR NEW WEST SAMMAMISH RIVER BRIDGE

The City of Kenmore has been awarded nearly $28 million in funding by multiple state and federal agencies to replace the West Sammamish River Bridge. Funding agencies include the Transportation Improvement Board, Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. Most recently in November, the City secured $6.9 million in grant funds from the Transportation Improvement Board, with the project receiving the highest amount of funding among 28 other projects across Washington. The City will provide $3,769,000 toward the completion of this project as identified in the City’s Capital Improvement Program. The project is currently in the design phase (60% complete) and construction is estimated to start in spring 2019, subject to permitting from various state and federal agencies as well as a favorable bidding climate.

The project will replace the regionally significant West Sammamish River Bridge which is the south-bound structure over the Sammamish River along 68th Avenue NE. This is the City’s only Sammamish River crossing and the West Sammamish Bridge itself carries over 14,000 cars per day. A bridge inspection in 2012 revealed critical changes in the bridge condition, including cracks in the concrete structure, settlement, and significant loss of soil around the piers. Bridge weight restrictions went into effect in March 2014.

The proposed project will:

- Replace the existing two-lane bridge with a new two-lane bridge.
- Add a mixed-use bicycle and pedestrian path on the west side of the bridge
- Project budget permitting, add a new sidewalk along the east side of 68th Avenue NE.

Work includes demolition and construction of the west bridge, construction of retaining walls, roadway work tying the new bridge into the 68th Avenue NE/Juanita Drive NE roadways, lighting, stormwater improvements, extending and improving bicycle facilities, and if the project budget permits, upgrading signals, undergrounding utilities, and restoration/improvements to the east bridge.

During construction, the contractor will strive to maintain two lanes in each direction across the Sammamish River when possible. However, there will be times when one or two lanes of traffic will need to be closed to accommodate construction. There will also be periodic closures of the river and under the bridge during construction. The City will host an open house in late 2018/early 2019 to discuss what to expect during the bridge construction.

The revenue sources for matching funds are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Kenmore Funds</td>
<td>$3,769,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting Washington (State)</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Advisory Committee (Federal)</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Transportation Program (Federal)</td>
<td>$1,063,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Improvement Board (State)</td>
<td>$6,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,732,994</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about the West Sammamish River Bridge, visit:
www.kenmorewa.gov/WestSammamishRiverBridge
PUGET SOUND ENERGY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

In recent years the City, with the help of our residents and businesses, has taken steps to demand that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) improve electric reliability.

In 2016, the City commissioned an Electrical System Reliability Assessment which confirmed the problems in Kenmore and recommended actions that could improve power reliability in Kenmore. The report notes that most electrical circuits in Kenmore performed in the lowest quartile of the PSE system for the years 2010-2015.

In 2016 - 2017, PSE took actions to improve reliability by upgrading sections of the electrical system in north Kenmore and trimming vegetation in areas such as on Juanita Drive NE. In 2018, PSE will continue to strengthen the system with other projects such as substation improvements.

On January 22, City Council discussed a proposed new Franchise Agreement and Memorandum on Performance and Reliability and is expected to continue the discussion in February.

A “franchise,” in this case, is the non-exclusive right for a utility company to operate in the city’s right of way. As a privately owned utility, PSE is regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

To learn more about the electric utility and natural gas franchise agreement, visit: www.kenmorewa.gov/PSEFranchiseAgreement2018

KENMORE BUSINESS INCUBATOR CONTINUES TO GROW

To support an innovative community spirit and foster the success of start-up entrepreneurs, in 2013 the City created a Business Incubator Program that provides low-cost office space, mentorship, and business development support, and connects business owners to networking events and seminars.

The Incubator currently serves 20 companies, including several companies that occupy office space, and businesses participating in the Virtual Incubator Program which provides business development mentoring to companies who don’t need the dedicated work space.

For more information, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/KBI or contact Nancy Ousley, Assistant City Manager, at nousley@kenmorewa.gov or 425 398 8900.

SIGN UP FOR ALERT NORTHSHORE

BE NOTIFIED IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The City of Kenmore has recently added a new means of contacting Kenmore residents: The Alert Northshore Emergency Notification System.

This service allows officials to text, email or phone all or targeted areas in Kenmore in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action, such as an evacuation, contaminated water, hazardous chemical spill, road closures, etc.

This service is available to those who live or own property within the boundaries of the City of Kenmore or the City of Lake Forest Park.

To receive Alert Northshore notifications, please sign up online at: www.kenmorewa.gov/AlertNorthshore
This August, in cooperation with the City of Seattle, the City of Kenmore improved year-round accessibility for trail users by paving the pathway between 68th and 71st Avenues NE, providing a key connection between neighborhoods and Kenmore’s downtown.

Tolt Trail Improvements

In October, the NE 192nd Street Culvert Replacement project was complete. The project replaced a small metal pipe with a large, fish-passable culvert to eliminate a chronic, decades-old flooding problem caused by the Little Swamp Creek.

Hangar and Town Square

The Hangar and Town Square officially opened to the Kenmore community in late August.

Forming the center of Kenmore’s downtown, the 4,700 square foot Hangar building serves as a gathering place for residents and visitors. The large space includes a double-sided fire place, ample...
In October, the NE 192nd Street Culvert Replacement project was complete. The project replaced a small metal pipe with a large, fish-passable culvert to eliminate a chronic, decades-old flooding problem caused by the Little Swamp Creek.
Last December, any Kenmore residents received a mailer encouraging them to purchase warranty coverage in case of a water or sewer line break. The City’s logo on the letter caused some confusion and concern. The City has instructed the warranty program to cease using the City’s logo in its materials.

Background

The City of Kenmore from time to time hears from homeowners who have had the unfortunate experience of repairing an aging water or sewer line that breaks between the street and their homes. In these emergencies, the homeowner is in the predicament of paying for an expensive repair, finding a contractor, and obtaining the right permits and inspections in order to ensure that the work is done well and complies with codes and regulations.

Through the City’s membership with the National League of Cities, we recently learned of a warranty coverage program for sewer or water line breaks, that the National League of Cities endorsed and promoted, called Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA). In addition to covering the cost of the break (within coverage limits), SLWA works and contracts directly with local pre-selected plumbers to perform the repairs with the required permits and inspections.

The City of Kenmore had the best intentions to inform homeowners about the existence of this type of service line coverage and a possible provider; however, it has become clear that the appearance of the City’s logo on Service Line Warranties of America’s promotional materials has caused confusion and some concern.

The City has instructed Service Line Warranties of America not to send out any further letters with the City’s logo or any other promotional materials implying that the City endorses or recommends their program.

Homeowners are under no obligation to purchase warranties or insurance for their water and sewer lines. If homeowners do wish to consider obtaining such insurance, they are encouraged to conduct their own review of all available insurance or warranty options before making a decision.

The City of Kenmore takes no official position on sewer or water line insurance or warranty programs – including Service Line Warranties of America – and we encourage homeowners to consider their options carefully, read the fine print, and check carefully for exclusions and limitations before making a decision.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the City of Kenmore endorse Service Line Warranties of America or any other sewer line warranty program? The City of Kenmore takes no official position on sewer or water line insurance or warranty programs. We encourage homeowners to consider their options carefully, read the fine print, and check carefully for exclusions and limitations before making a decision.

Q: Does my homeowner insurance cover repairs of aging water or sewer line? Typical homeowner insurance policies do not cover the cost of repairing breaks in water and sewer lines, but residents should consult with their insurance provider.

Q: Who is responsible for the water and sewer lines? The Northshore Utility District is responsible for water and sewer lines in Kenmore’s streets and public right of way. Homeowners are responsible for the repairs and maintenance of their lines between the right of way and their home.

Q: What is a good resource to learn more about water/sewer line insurance and warranty programs? Northshore Utility District (NUD) has provided helpful information on what to consider in a recent newsletter. For water or sewer line breaks, NUD encourages homeowners to call NUD (425-398-4400) before calling a contractor. NUD provides 24-hour response personnel that can provide advice or assistance at all hours of the day or night.

Q: Were public funds used for the SLWA mailings? No public funds were used for the mailing of Service Line Warranties of America’s letters.

Q: Did or will the City or any city officials receive any compensation from Service Line Warranties of America or its contractors? No.

Q: Did the City provide SLWA with a mailing list of Kenmore residents? No. SLWA purchased a mailing list from a third party at their own expense.
WELCOMING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joe Marshall and Debra Srebnik were sworn as to Kenmore City Council members on December 28, 2017, assuming positions previously held by Allan Van Ness and Laurie Sperry. Council member Nigel Herbig was re-elected to City Council this November, and was unanimously voted as Deputy Mayor at the January 16 City Council meeting, where Council member David Baker was unanimously voted as Mayor.

Council member Joe Marshall grew up in Kenmore and is a longtime parks advocate. Joe has served as President of Northshore Rotary and Board Member on the Cascadia College Foundation.

Council member Debra Srebnik is a longtime Kenmore resident who served as a Kenmore Planning Commissioner, is a founding co-organizer of the Kenmore Waterfront Activities Center, and on a number of school-district committees.

STATE OF THE CITY OF KENMORE

Kenmore City Manager Rob Karlinsey delivered the annual State of the City address to the Kenmore community on Wednesday, January 17 hosted by the Bothell Chamber of Commerce. Rob highlighted recent traffic safety enhancements, economic development programs, and environmental improvements that are contributing to Kenmore’s successes today. Rob also talked about strategic investments across Kenmore that are creating a sustainable city for the future. In the coming years, Kenmore will see capital investments in infrastructure, improved accessibility, healthier waterways, increased recreational opportunities, and a signature downtown.

This was the largest audience for Kenmore’s State of the City event with 160 attendees.

To view a recording of the State of the City presentation, visit: www.kenmorewa.gov/StateoftheCity2018

Rob’s portion of the presentation starts at 16:30

CHECK OUT THE KENMORE BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The City encourages Kenmore business owners to get involved with the Kenmore Business Alliance (KBA). The KBA meets each month to create networking opportunities Kenmore for business leaders, discuss current local issues and provide a two-way communication conduit between the Kenmore business community and the City.

The KBA is free and meets first Thursday of each month at Kenmore City Hall, from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The KBA is a collaborative effort between the Greater Bothell Chamber of Commerce and the City of Kenmore.

Recognizing its growing number of Kenmore members, the Greater Bothell Chamber will soon be known as the Bothell-Kenmore Chamber of Commerce.
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.

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.

The Arts of Kenmore Gallery @ Kenmore City Hall will exhibit culturally interpretative works by local artists of Hispanic and Latino heritage, curated to enrich and engage our growing community on the northside, March 2 - May 24. www.artsofkenmore.org.

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

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Twitter: @kenmorewa
Instagram: @WhyILoveKenmore
Hashtags: #kenmorewa #WhyILoveKenmore

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KENMORE COUNCIL APPROVES 2018 PLANNING COMMISSION DOCKET

On Monday, January 22, Kenmore City Council approved the 2018 work program, also known as docket, for the City Planning Commission. Docket items are those that will be considered by the Planning Commission over the coming year, with eventual recommendations to the City Council.

The docket items approved by the Council are:

- Housing Strategy Plan: Finish mobile home park policy recommendations
- Update the Critical Area rules for environmentally sensitive areas
- Rewrite and consolidate the floodplain rules
- Update the Shoreline Master Program

The Planning Commission has been discussing ways to address existing affordable housing in the mobile home parks since October 2017. It is anticipated that the Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council spring 2018.

The updates to the City’s critical area rules, floodplain rules, and Shoreline Master Program will be combined into a single project before the Planning Commission. As a first step, a consultant team will review best available science and prepare a “gap analysis” to determine where amendments may be needed. The Shoreline Master Program update is a State requirement and must be completed by June 30, 2019.

For more information, contact Lauri Anderson, Senior Planner, at landerson@kenmorewa.gov or 425-398-8900.