KENMORE BY THE LAKE

Kenmore Newsletter

SPRING 2016

It's a gorgeous time of year to visit Rhododendron Park

The Official Newsletter of the City of Kenmore, Washington

A Real Downtown for Kenmore? Come and See.

If you haven't been to the corner of 68th Avenue NE and NE 181st Street in a while, you should stop by and take a look. MainStreet Property Group LLC is investing heavily in two large developments: Spencer68 Apartments and the LINQ at Spencer Square. Both of these developments are on the Kenmore Village property (sold by the City to MainStreet), and when completed, these two developments will represent more than $75 million in new private sector investment in the heart of our downtown.

If you combine other private and public sector investments in recent years (Kenmore Camera, new library, city hall, skate court, and town green), total new investment in our downtown exceeds $100 million—all within one block of the 68th/181st intersection.

In the LINQ building, MainStreet's tenant on the 20,000 square foot main floor will be EvergreenHealth. Approximately 90 residential units are under construction on the upper four floors of the LINQ. Completion of the LINQ is anticipated in the first half of 2017.

The City's town green and community building (NW corner of 68th Avenue NE and NE 181st Street) continue to take shape and are expected to be completed sometime this fall. The retail portion of the community building is expected to be ready in the first half of 2017.

While creating and building Kenmore's own sense of "downtown place" is a work in progress, significant steps and milestones have been achieved. Soon after Kenmore incorporated as a City in 1998, many citizens worked tirelessly on writing a downtown plan. Key elements in that plan are now coming together, and their vision for Kenmore's very own downtown is becoming a reality.

For information and updates, and to view a video flythrough of the future town green, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/downtown.

Meet Your Council

Mayor
David Baker

Deputy Mayor
Allan VanNess

Councilmember
Milton Curtis

Councilmember
Stacey Denuski

Councilmember
Nigel Herbig

Councilmember
Brent Smith

Councilmember
Laurie Sperry

City Council regular meetings are the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of each month, unless otherwise posted. To view meeting agendas, receive meeting notifications, and watch live streaming or prerecorded on-demand videos, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/council.

Major Milestones Accomplished on SR 522 Improvement Project

Recent construction milestones of the SR 522 West A Improvement Project include the reopening of 61st Ave NE between SR 522 and NE 175th Street (left) and the removal of old overhead utility lines (right).

The construction team is making great progress on the SR 522 West A Improvement Project. The project is on track to be completed this fall.

On April 20, 61st Ave NE between NE 175th Street and SR 522 reopened to people walking, biking, and driving. We appreciate everyone's patience with the detours as the construction team built two retaining walls, installed a culvert pipe to channel the stream, fully regraded the road, built a new sidewalk, installed a new traffic signal, and improved the Burke-Gilman Trail crossing.

In early April, crews also flipped the switch on the new traffic signal at the intersection of SR 522 and 61st Ave NE, completed restriping of 61st Ave NE, and completed the removal of old overhead utility lines in the project area.

The next phase of work includes paving driveways along the south side of SR 522 and raised center median work. During the median work, the bus lanes on both sides of SR 522 will be temporarily used as general purpose lanes. The lane shift is anticipated to last until summer. The center turn lane will be permanently replaced with a median to help increase safety and aesthetics of the area.

To keep informed with the latest construction news, visit the project website at www.sr522kenmore.com and sign up for email updates.

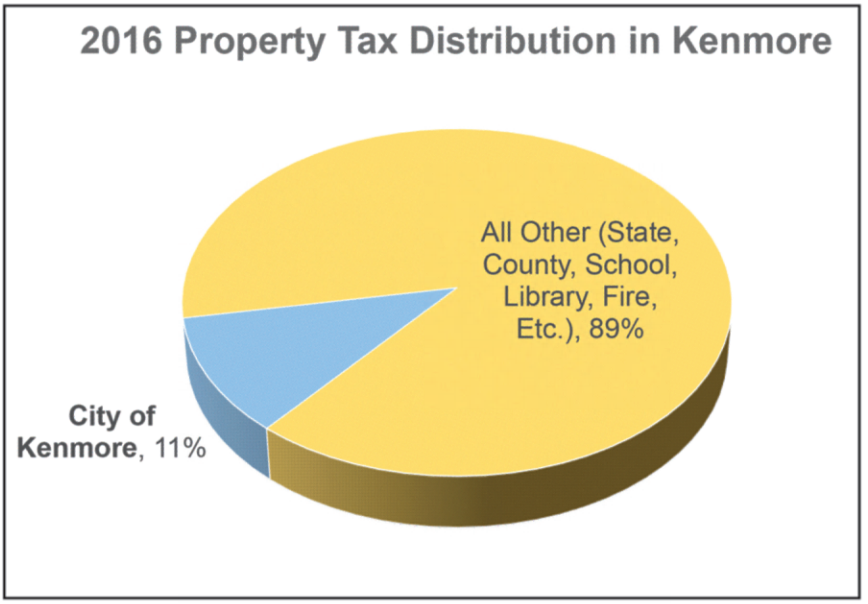
Please support local businesses during construction

Your Property Taxes

by Rob Karlinsey, City Manager

I'll be the first to admit that property taxes aren't the easiest thing to wrap your head around. The relationship between the assessed value of your property, your property tax rate, and the actual amount you pay can be confusing. In addition, there are property tax rates assessed by different taxing jurisdictions, and they combine to create the total rate you pay in property taxes.

In Kenmore, that total property tax rate for 2016 is $11.580 per $1,000 of the assessed value of your property, $1.258 of which is the City of Kenmore portion. So if you own a $500,000 home, you will pay $5,790 in total property taxes this year. Of that amount, $629 will go to the City of Kenmore.



Kenmore's $1.258 portion of the total property tax rate will generate about $4.5 million in 2016. As a point of reference, the City's 2016 public safety expenditures (police, jail, and justice services) are budgeted at just over $4 million.

Just under 11% of your property taxes go to the City of Kenmore. The remaining 89% of your property taxes go to other taxing jurisdictions, including the State of Washington, King County, Northshore School District, King County Library District, Northshore Fire District, King County Flood Control District, Port of Seattle, among others.

Here are some common questions and answers about property tax:

If the value of my property goes up by 20% this year, will I see a 20% increase in my property taxes next year?

Most likely no, but it depends. The total amount jurisdictions can collect for all property owners can only go up by 1% per year.* If your increase in property value is equal to the average increase in value for other properties in the taxing jurisdiction, then your property tax increase should not exceed one-percent. But the average increase in property values varies by jurisdiction (State, County, City, etc.). See why I said it was confusing?

If the total amount collected by jurisdictions can't increase by more than 1% per year, then why do my property taxes paid go up by more than 1%?

If you are seeing an annual increase of more than one percent, there may be at least two possible reasons for it:

• Voter approved property tax increases aren't subject to the 1% limit.

• The increase in value of your particular property may exceed the average increase in value of the other properties in your jurisdiction.

If I disagree with the County Assessor's valuation of my property, can I contest it?

Yes. Call the King County Assessor at 206-296-7300 or email Assessor.Info@kingCounty.gov. You can request that the data on your property be reviewed or explained by an appraiser and an Assessment Review can be initiated. Appeal procedures can be found at the King County Assessor's website.

Can senior citizens and/or lower income residents receive assistance in paying their property taxes?

Yes. King County offers two types of tax relief for people 60 and older. For more information, go to the King County Assessor's website, click on Common Questions, then click on Seniors. Or, call 206-396-3920. In addition to assistance for seniors, partial property tax deferrals are available for people under a certain income threshold. Call the same number or click on Residential under Common Questions on the Assessor's website.

*New construction is not included in the calculation of the 1% increase limit. Voter-approved property tax increases are not subject to the 1% increase limit. Some jurisdictions may have "banked capacity" whereby they may increase property taxes by more than 1% if they have not taken the 1% increase in prior years (up to the limits of the prior years).

Sidewalk Under Construction along NE 181st Street

On April 25, the City started construction of a new sidewalk along the south side of NE 181st Street between 68th and 73rd Avenues NE. The project includes several benefits to the community, including:

- Improved safety and accessibility due to added sidewalks and lighting;
- Improved corridor appearance due to undergrounding of utility lines and added landscaping;
- Water main upgrades by Northshore Utility District.

Funding partners on the south sidewalk project include the City of Kenmore, Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation Alternatives Program and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program. Construction is anticipated to last through the summer.

The City is also planning to install sidewalk along the north side of the NE 181st Street between 68th and 73rd Avenues NE. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2017.

Project information is available on the City's website, www.kenmorewa.gov/NE181stStreetSidewalkProject.

imagine KENMORE

A big THANK YOU to the hundreds of residents who provided input on potential transportation and park projects during the Imagine Kenmore process.

Imagine Kenmore was aimed at discovering what's important to our citizens in both transportation safety and park improvements. Because of the very helpful feedback from the community, the City Council has been able to distill all of the information and input into a proposed list of projects that reflect the priorities communicated during Imagine Kenmore.

Known as "Walkways and Waterways," the preliminary list of projects that may move forward for Kenmore voter approval in November are:

- New sidewalks and bike lanes on Juanita Drive and 68th Avenue NE, from the southern city limits to the northern city limits
- Beach improvements as well as new paths at Log Boom Park.
- Boardwalk Trail at Rhododendron Park, connecting the playfield to the river.
- Waterfront access improvements and new paths and trails at Squire's Landing Park.

At the May 23, 2016 meeting, the City Council will consider a resolution to include a property tax bond measure on the November 2016 ballot to pay for these projects.

For more information, go to www.imaginekenmore.com.

Kenmore Business Alliance Meetings

The Kenmore Business Alliance is an exciting opportunity to get involved, help improve the business climate, and grow your own business.

Join other Kenmore business people at 8:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Kenmore City Hall.

You do not need to be a member of the Chamber to attend meetings.

For information, visit www.bothellchamber.org and click Committees.

Celebrate Bike Everywhere Month in May

May is Bike Everywhere Month! During this month-long celebration of pedal-powered movement, Cascade Bicycle Club hosts the Washington Bikes Bike Everywhere Challenge; F5 Bike Everywhere Day street side celebration stations all throughout the region May 20th, free bicycling classes for newbies, and other community events aimed at encouraging people to bike more or for the first time. For details, visit www.cascade.org.

The best way to celebrate Bike Everywhere Month is simply to get on a bike: ride to work, ride to the grocery store or just ride for the sheer joy of being outside.

Join us on Friday, May 20 to celebrate Bike Everywhere Day at 192 Brewing Company from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. There will be live music, bike resources, giveaways, snacks and a full food and beverage menu available. For more information on this event, visit www.kenmorewa.gov/calendar.

Kenmore Business Directory and Kenmore Business Registration

Do you want to support local Kenmore Businesses?

Check out the online Kenmore Business Directory at **www.findkenmore.org**. Find businesses located in Kenmore such as newly listed, **The Andrew White School of Music** and **Open Window Learning.** Over **110** businesses are listed in the Directory and more are being added each month.

SHOP MORE
PLAY MORE
FIND MORE
KENMORE
www.FindKenmore.org

Do you want your business listed in the Directory?

Only those businesses with a **Kenmore Business Registration** can opt in to be listed in the Directory. **If your business or nonprofit has a physical location in Kenmore, it is likely you are now required to register.** You can register online at http://business.wa.gov/BLS. For more information, visit the City's website www.kenmorewa.gov/businessservices.

Thanks to over 800 Kenmore businesses who have completed their Business Registration!

This program helps the City connect with the business community, and revenues are directed to promoting and supporting Kenmore businesses, and other programs such as the Kenmore Business Alliance.

For additional City information,
Visit www.kenmorewa.gov

Calling Volunteers!

Are you interested in emergency preparedness? Want to help out your community?

Join your fellow citizens on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. for our Emergency Volunteer Meeting. We rotate locations between Kenmore City Hall and Lake Forest Park City Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 in Lake Forest Park.

Each meeting includes information on upcoming training and volunteer opportunities, disaster drills and exercises, a short training on an emergency related topic, and an update on Northshore Emergency Management Coalition activities.

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in emergency preparedness and management to be involved in this community.

For more information, email northshoreemc@gmail.com.

Don't be scared, be prepared!

Pet License Community Outreach and Education Program Underway

Starting April 30, staff from Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) will be visiting neighborhoods in north Kenmore on weekends to inform residents about the benefits of pet licensing and to ensure that pets are properly licensed. Canvassing was conducted in areas of south Kenmore last year. All cats and dogs eight weeks or older in the RASKC service area are required to be licensed with King County.

If a representative finds an unlicensed pet, they will not issue a citation. Instead, they will provide a free temporary license, which provides pet owners time to purchase a permanent license.

King County pet licensing representatives are easily recognized by their King County ID badges, RASKC logo shirts or jackets, business cards, and pet licensing documents. As King County employees, they follow strict guidelines regarding professional conduct. Staff will not peer in windows or over fences looking for pets.

Pet licenses protect pets and help sustain vital animal care and control services, such as reuniting owners with their lost pets, including providing licensed pets a free ride home; adopting pets by supporting care at both of King County's pet adoption centers; responding to reports of dangerous or nuisance animals; and investigating and prosecuting cases of animal cruelty or neglect.

To purchase or renew your pet's license in person, visit Kenmore City Hall. To see a list of licensing locations, or get more information about pet licensing, visit www.kingcounty.gov/LicenseMyPet or call 206-296-2712.

Already have a licensed pet? Take a picture, use the hashtag #kenmorepets share with us on Twitter @kenmorewa!

Bastyr Herb & Food Fair

Join Bastyr University on May 21 at the 18th Annual Herb and Food Fair! This free event consists of educational speakers, cooking demos, guided walks, live music and fun activities for kids. The event goes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.bastyr.edu/events.

Kids to Parks Day

On May 21, Friends of Saint Edward State Park present Kids to Park Day. Come explore the woods and participate in activities from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit the Friends of Saint Edward State Park page on Facebook.

20K Paddler Race Redmond to Kenmore

Participate in the inaugural 20K Race Redmond to Kenmore hosted by the Kenmore Waterfront Activities Center on May 21. Open to all hand powered watercraft. For details and to register, visit www.KenmoreWAC.org.

Kids Fishing Clinic

Trout Unlimited invites kids 14 and under to participate at the annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 4. This free event will be held at Log Boom Park from 8 a.m. to noon. Come learn about fish conservation and how to catch trout. Fishing poles and bait will be provided.

Summer Events

The City is gearing up to host our annual special summer events, including the Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular, Summer Concert Series, and Play Day. Visit the City's website in June for event details.

18th annual

KENMORE ART SHOW

"Playful" is the theme of the 18th annual Kenmore Art Show, scheduled June 22-26 at the Bastyr University campus. The show features paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, artisan works, youth artwork, and artwork made from repurposed materials.

On Wednesday, June 22, the public is invited to an art preview at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception and award presentations from 6-8 p.m., featuring music from the Inglemoor High School Jazz Ensemble. The show runs through Sunday, offering music and workshops daily and food-trucks on Saturday.

The show is organized by the not-for-profit Arts of Kenmore. Questions? Email info@artsofkenmore.org.

Vegetation Maintenance Reminder

As the trees start to fill in, landscaping comes back to life, and the blackberries begin to grow, please be reminded that, per City code, you are responsible for maintaining vegetation adjacent to your home.

Please help us by checking your vegetation and trimming where necessary. This is especially important if you have sidewalk or walkways in front of your property, or if you live at an intersection. At intersections, it's important to make sure drivers can see approaching traffic.

Thank you for your help!

Learn How to Canoe, Kayak, Dragon Boat and More at the Kenmore Waterfront Activities Center

Spring is here, and that means it's time to get out on the water! The Kenmore Waterfront Activities Center at Squire's Landing Park hosts a full range of waterfront recreation and training programs, including sprint canoe and kayak training for youth, dragon boat practices for youth and adults, and a rowing camp for youth. Summer camps, all-year programs, and adult clubs are all available.

Do you have an interest in coaching? Free coach training is available. Volunteers are always needed to help with launching boats/shells, operating the safety launch, organizing registration, and other tasks.

To find out additional information, visit www.kenmorewac.org.

Neighborhood Projects Underway as a Result of Community Meetings

The Neighborhood Transportation Plan program is continuing into 2016. The program gathers citizens from each of 15 neighborhoods across Kenmore to discuss concerns, priorities and solutions on residential public roads in the City. Using this feedback, a planned projects map is developed for each participating neighborhood. Each neighborhood is allocated a budget based on the number of households to implement these projects.

Two groups of neighborhoods met in the fall and winter of 2015 to identify concerns and brainstorm possible solutions. The completed maps for these neighborhoods have been approved by the citizens that helped to develop them. Each neighborhood had between eight and twelve projects evaluated, ranging from stop signs and speed limit signs to fog line striping, speed feedback signs, arterial crosswalks with crosswalk flashers and LED street lighting upgrades. Many projects in these neighborhoods are being implemented in the spring and summer of 2016.

The third group of neighborhoods held their first meetings in March and second meetings will occur the first week of May. You can check the meeting schedule and find your neighborhood at **www.kenmorewa.gov/ntpp**. The final plans and project implementation for these neighborhoods will occur in the summer and fall of 2016.

Meeting & Other Information

Kenmore City Council regular meetings occur on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of the month at Kenmore City Hall, unless otherwise posted. 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 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. Citizens are encouraged to attend these informal sessions to ask questions, discuss issues and offer suggestions on any topic of interest. For location details, visit kenmorewa.gov/calendar.

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 kenmorewa.gov/planningcommission.

Kenmore Library Advisory Board holds meetings on the first Tuesday 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 stay informed at kenmorewa.gov/stayinformed.

The Arts of Kenmore Gallery @ Kenmore City Hall features The Art of Selfies through May 19. For the art gallery schedule and to learn how you can submit your artwork, visit www.artsofkenmore.org.

Licensing your pet is easy and gives your pet an inexpensive insurance policy for its safety and protection. Plus, it's the law. For details, visit kenmorewa.gov/animalservices.

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

City of Kenmore

18120 68th Ave NE
P.O. Box 82607
Kenmore, WA 98028

Email: cityhall@kenmorewa.gov
Web address: www.kenmorewa.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/kenmorewa
Twitter: @kenmorewa
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Skate Like a Girl and Skyhawks Sports are launching camps this summer in Kenmore.
photo courtesy of Skake Like a Girl

Register for Sports Camps in Kenmore

Sports camps are coming to Kenmore! Summer is right around the corner and the City of Kenmore is exploring new programs that will bring youth sport camps to Kenmore parks.

Skyhawks Sports Camps

Skyhawks will offer sports camps over a couple of weeks at Rhododendron Park. The camps include sports such as soccer, flag football, basketball and baseball.

- Tiny-Hawk Camp 6/27/16 – 7/1/16: Ages 3 ½ - 5 years old
- Soccer Camp 6/27/16 – 7/1/16: Ages 4 – 6 years old
- Soccer Camp 6/27/16 – 7/1/16: Ages 6 – 12 years old
- Mini-Hawk Camp (multi-sport) 7/25/16 – 7/29/16: Ages 4-7 years old
- Multi-Sport Camp 7/25/16 – 7/29/16: Ages 6 – 12 years old

To learn more and register, visit: www.skyhawks.com/search. In the search box, type in Kenmore zip code 98028.

Skate Like a Girl Skate Camps

Skate Like a Girl will hold skate camps at Jack V. Crawford Skate Court the weeks of August 15-19 and August 22-26. Skate Like a Girl focuses on youth empowerment, especially young women, to gain confidence, leadership skills, and promote social justice while building a community. This camp is geared toward children ages 5-12 at all level of abilities from completely new to skateboarding to advanced.

To learn more and register, visit: http://www.skatelikeagirl.com/kenmore-skate-camp-registration.html.