



Mayor's Office
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Dec. 8, 2022

Dear Future Issaquah Residents,

My name is Mary Lou Pauly, and I have the honor of serving as the Mayor of the City of Issaquah.

Issaquah finds itself at a pivotal moment in our history. For some communities, little may change over the course of a few decades. For us, it's been rather more noticeable.

We celebrated the City's 130th birthday earlier this year and as part of our celebrations, we reflected on our own history. Issaquah 30 years ago was much different than the Issaquah we know today.

In 1990, the completion of our City Hall and Police Station at 130 East Sunset Way was almost complete. Home construction began in Issaquah's first urban village – the Issaquah Highlands – but stores, restaurants and Swedish Hospital were still years away.

At that time, Issaquah was facing a tremendous amount of change, and by 2003 our City was named the fastest growing community in the state.

Now in 2022, our region is still growing at a significant pace, and we are managing a different kind of transition. A time of redevelopment on the valley floor, around Interstate 90. A new urban form of construction that is more vertical and will accommodate Issaquah's future residents in a mixed-use residential and retail area, serviced by current and future transportation hubs (we are planning now for future light rail in Central Issaquah!).

Redevelopment can be much more challenging to do – and to do well – than new development in open areas. How do we protect what makes Issaquah special, while we are planning for the growth we know is inevitable? Our community is so lucky to be gifted with forested hillsides, creeks, lakes and abundant wildlife. We need to preserve, protect and enhance these treasures as our city grows.

Our collective community vision is simply stated:

Issaquah thrives as a welcoming community, creating a sustainable legacy for future generations that honors its rich history and passion for the natural environment.

I hope that our careful planning today helped to shape the Issaquah you now know – a community that is resilient to challenges; honors our history; savors the jaw-dropping natural beauty of the Issaquah Alps; and is proud to build a life here.

The contents of this time capsule represent a snapshot of life in Issaquah — COVID-19 tests and masks from the pandemic; pickleball paddles representing a growing community sport; and educational tools from the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery that symbolize our region’s commitment to environmental protection.

We hope that as you explore these items from Issaquah’s past, it reaffirms our community’s ongoing commitment to building a sustainable future.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lou Pauly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "M" is large and loops around the rest of the name. The signature is enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn circular border.

Mayor Mary Lou Pauly