



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 65

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

New library! Selected site is next to City Hall

After a year and a half of discussions with the King County Library System, a deal has been struck to place a brand-new library near the recently constructed City Hall and police station building.

Clearing the way for this major development, the City Council last month authorized City Manager Ben Yazici to sell the library system 172,000 square feet of land in Sammamish Commons, the 30-acre park and civic complex where City Hall is located.

The new library, when the purchase and sale agreement is finalized, will be built just south of City Hall, on the other side of a civic plaza.

Preliminary plans call for a

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As part of the Sammamish Commons Grand Opening, the new City Hall sculpture was unveiled. Assistant City Manager Lyman Howard (left) and Mayor Mark Cross address a gathering of residents.

Commons Grand Opening

Although it's been in use for some time, most notably during the "Fourth on the Plateau" celebration, Sammamish Commons finally had its official coming out party on Oct. 13, a sunny Saturday that provided a welcoming atmosphere for the many residents who took part.

"We thought 250 hot dogs would be enough," Assistant City Manager Lyman Howard said, "but they disappeared in a hurry. Some of our council people missed out."

The festivities began at 10 a.m.

when Boy Scouts, Brownies, and students from Inglewood Junior High School and Skyline and Eastlake High School planted more than 2,000 bulbs in the natural sections of the 30-acre park and civic complex.

Shortly after the hot dogs disappeared, the Arts Commission unveiled the new City Hall sculpture, a piece by Debbie Young entitled "Confluence." The graceful glass and metal sculpture stands just south of City Hall, at the

See GRAND OPENING, pg. 5



Mark Cross
Mayor

Given the road deficit we inherited when Sammamish incorporated in 1999, I sometimes think the City Council should be renamed the “Transportation Council.” The to-do list is really pretty long. But it has its rewards.

This past month, the city received a big “thank you” from Angie Stringer for the new left-turn pocket at 228th Avenue and Northeast 21st Street. She says the new lane has provided “a huge safety improvement” in a spot that used to be “very tense and tight,” especially at night. It makes all of us on the council feel good when a small change can make such a big difference to one or more of our residents.

The big projects, of course, can also make a big difference. In the case of the new section of 244th that we plan to build next year, it will let residents head straight north to State Route 202. Currently, residents in the

neighborhoods south of Allen Lake have to head west on Southeast Eighth Street and then drive north on 228th Avenue.

With a high quality and high value wetland in the vicinity, the 244th improvements will require some sharp engineering and careful mitigation of environmental impacts. But with all its safety and connectivity benefits, it’s a worthy project and an essential link in the city’s arterial network.

The first phase of improvements to the East Lake Sammamish Parkway will also be big. This project will start at Inglewood Hill Road and stretch north for about a mile. The proposed plan calls for the addition of a left turn lane and/or median strip. Among other things, it will also add bike lanes in both directions, and gutter, curb and sidewalk on the east side of the corridor.

But one of its best features is what it will subtract – that “very tense and tight” feeling you get when you’re

holding up a mile of traffic trying to make a left turn into your driveway or onto a side road. On a rainy night, with lots of oncoming headlights, that can be more than tense – it can be very dangerous. The city’s accident records show that this section of road badly needs these safety improvements.

Although recent building trends indicate that center turn lanes are becoming increasingly popular as a way of improving both safety and traffic flow, the Parkway design is not yet in stone. We invite you to have your say during upcoming City Council meetings on this topic, or any other transportation issue that interests you. Who knows, maybe you’ll have a suggestion that could eliminate your own “tense and tight” feelings – just like Angie Stringer.

City Hall earns “Green Building” Silver Certificate



Cynthia Moffitt (second from right) of King County’s Green Tools Program presents the LEED certification to Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus, Mayor Mark Cross and Sevda Baran, the City Hall Project Manager.

Thanks to thrifty water fixtures, natural-light design, low-maintenance landscaping and a long list of other environmentally friendly features, the new City Hall building was recognized last month by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) with a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certificate.

The USGBC is a non-profit composed of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work.

“Our community has made it clear they want us to be good stewards of the environment,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “This certificate is wonderful validation.

“Our City Hall project manager, Sevda Baran, and our Deputy City Manager, Pete Butkus, contributed a lot of time and thought to the LEED effort. They, along with a very supportive City Council, deserve the credit.”

City's "shoreline restoration" incentives win award

The western border of Sammamish is blessed with a lakeside vista suburban dreams are made of – placid waters, tall fir trees, and a cozy, quiet shoreline dotted with comfortable homes.

And there are more homes on the way. People who want the gentle lap of water to be part of their bedroom community experience are finding ways to place more houses on this peaceful shoreline. And that was part of the challenge as the city began its update of a Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) in 2005.

“Protecting and enhancing our shoreline along Lake Sammamish was very important to both the community at large and the people who owned lake-side property,” Kathy Curry, the city’s wetland biologist, said. “We feel very fortunate that our public involvement process was so helpful. We incorporated ideas from our residents that helped us produce an award-winning ordinance.”

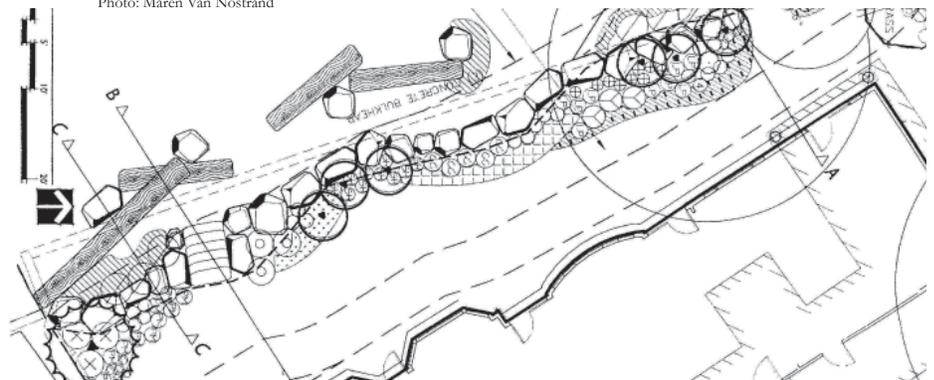
The city won the 2007 “Sustainability” award from the Planning Association of Washington and the state’s chapter of the American Planning Association. The award, bestowed jointly by the two associations, recognized the “shoreline restoration incentives” Sammamish included in its CAO update.

Put simply, after setting a 45-foot shoreline buffer requirement for new development on Lake Sammamish, the city allowed builders to reduce the buffer to as little as 15 feet if they agreed to implement an array of shoreline restoration and enhancement methods. Some of those include re-vegetation, water quality protections, and bulkhead removal.

“The plans we’ve been receiving



Photo: Maren Van Nostrand



Graphic: The Watershed Company

A home on the eastern edge of Lake Sammamish and the design plans submitted to protect and enhance the shoreline next to the house.

from builders are very encouraging,” Curry said. “Our shoreline is going to get healthier as new homes are built or new additions are made to existing homes.”

Like a martial arts expert redirecting the momentum of an opponent, the new ordinance turns the power of growth into a force multiplier for the environment.

“We owe this success to the thoughtful work of the Planning Commission, City Council, staff, and a broad spectrum of residents and community advocates,” Curry said. “It’s

been a broad-based group effort.”

Mayor Mark Cross thinks the benefits will extend beyond Sammamish.

“In addition to making these options available to our residents, I hope the restoration incentives will serve as an example for other communities facing similar challenges,” Cross said. “Just as we have learned on many occasions from the creative work of other communities, I hope others will benefit from this innovative and effective approach in Sammamish.”

(The award-winning code can be viewed at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.)

LIBRARY, cont. from pg. 1

19,000-square-foot library, almost twice the size of the existing facility at the intersection of 228th Avenue Northeast and Inglewood Hill Road. Although the building hasn't been designed yet, there has been discussion of a two-story facility with one level of underground parking and additional surface parking. The sale price for the city land has been set at \$825,000.

"This is exciting news for our city," Yazici said. "Working in partnership with the library system, the City Council has helped complete our civic plaza with a library the community has really, really been yearning for."

The city will ask the library system to design a facility that will be compatible with the existing City Hall building and other features of the civic plaza.

"The City Council was emphatic about making sure all the buildings fit



This site, in the foreground, is where the new library will be built.

together both physically and esthetically," Yazici said. "With the plaza in the middle, the library to the south, City Hall to the north, and a great view of the Seattle skyline to the west, this is going to be a very special

place."

Finalizing the sale is the next step for the city, followed by the library system's building design process. No date has been set for the start of construction.

Town Center goes to Planning Commission



Consultant John Owen discusses the Draft Sammamish Town Center Plan with the Planning Commission on Oct. 4.

Following the release of the Draft Town Center Plan, the Planning Commission received a briefing on the major project on Oct. 4. The Planning Commission is now charged with reviewing the plan and passing on recommendations to the City Council early next year.

The commissioners, who typically hold public meetings the first and third Thursday of each month, will take public comment on the draft plan at each meeting until it's handed off to the City Council.

"We want residents to stay involved and give us their thoughts," said Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol. "That will help the community make an informed choice. We hope people will track the meeting and hearing schedule by going to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us."

GRAND OPENING, cont. from pg. 1
entrance to the main public plaza.

As all of this was happening, the Arts Commission Arts Fair was also going on inside City Hall. The fair, which continued through the weekend, featured the work of 26 artists from Sammamish and neighboring communities.

Sammamish Commons was designed to serve as a “gathering place” for the community. Located in the geographical center of the city, at 801 228th Ave. S.E., it also features walking trails, play areas, open spaces and a skate park, basketball court, and climbing wall.

“The Fourth of July fireworks, this grand opening, and lots of other events are going to start building a community tradition of gathering at the Commons,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We look forward to having many more shared experiences as the years go by.”



Residents gather at the west end of the City Hall plaza for hot dogs and refreshments. The midday barbecue was part of the Sammamish Commons Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, Oct. 13. The City Hall building is in the background, and the steps at the left lead down to the lower portion of the park and civic complex at 801 228th Ave. S.E.



Volunteers spruce up the natural areas of Sammamish Commons with new plantings.



City Councilmembers join with residents and members of the Arts Commission for a group photo in front of the new sculpture.

Project updates:

More information available online at:

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and

www.sammplat.wa.org



244th Avenue.: This project will improve 244th Avenue between S.E. Eighth Street and N.E. Eighth Street by creating a two-lane, tree-lined street with a median and/or center turn lane, as needed. The street will include a 630-foot-long bridge structure, closing an existing gap in the corridor. Construction will begin as early as spring 2008, with the contract estimated at just over \$13 million. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0563.

East Lake Sammamish Parkway N.E.: The design team is currently completing the Design Report and 30% plans for the proposed improvements from N.E. Inglewood Hill Road to 187th Avenue N.E. (northern city limits). The Design Report is scheduled for presentation to the City Council at the November 13 study session. The Design Report will be available

for public review in advance of the presentation to City Council. Final design of the first phase, from N.E. Inglewood Hill Road to N.E. 26th Street is anticipated to begin in late 2007. Construction of this \$13.7M initial segment is scheduled for 2009 after the SR202 widening improvements are completed. Key proposed features of this project include widening the roadway to three lanes to add either a center turn lane or landscaped median, bike lanes, and a sidewalk on the east side. The remaining two segments will be designed and constructed in future years. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0561. Project webpage: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP.

212th Avenue S.E. Sidewalk: This project will construct sidewalk along the west side of 212th Avenue S.E.

in the vicinity of Ebright Creek Park and close the existing gaps between the park and The Crossings at Pine Lake subdivision to the south and the future Chestnut Lane subdivision to the north. Construction is scheduled for 2008. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0561.

South Pine Lake Route Project:

Necessary utility work continues, in advance of the city project, which will make improvements between 212th Avenue S.E. and 224th Avenue S.E., along S.E. 32nd Street, 216th Avenue S.E., S.E. 28th Street, 222nd Place S.E., and S.E. 30th Street. Design is nearly complete, and the Wetland Mitigation Plan has been tentatively approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Ecology. The plan calls for the purchase of mitigation bank credits from an existing wetland project, in order to offset the small amount of impacted wetland caused by road widening. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2008. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0563.

You can be a grate help

Although your to-do list may already be longer than 228th Avenue, the city is politely asking you to add one more item: Please clear leaves and other debris from the stormwater grates near your home.

“This is a great contribution our residents can make to help our stormwater system work better,” Director of Public Works John Cunningham said. “With our small city staff, we need everyone’s help.”

The leaves and debris that collect over the grates cause running water to skip over the drainage openings and continue down the gutter, sometimes creating a harmful torrent of water.

“This small step can keep a rain shower from turning into an environmental problem or a safety hazard,” Cunningham said.



Police chief: “Don’t help a thief.”

Most thieves don’t like a challenge. They much prefer the easy mark. So don’t be one, says Police Chief Brad Thompson.

“It’s largely up to you whether you become a crime statistic or not,” Thomson said. “We don’t have a lot of master criminals wandering through Sammamish. Mostly they’re people just looking for an easy opportunity.”

It doesn’t take much to discourage someone from stealing your wallet, your golf clubs, or your identity. The Chief’s recommendations:

- **Close your garage door.** Unless you are in or near your garage, it only takes a few seconds for a drive-by burglary.
- **Secure your mail box.** Con-

tact the U.S. Postal Service for options. If you can’t lock your mailbox, take your outgoing mail to the post office or a curbside mailbox.

- **Don’t turn your car into a display case.** It only takes a second for a “smash and grab” artist to make off with laptops, handbags, iPods, etc. Put valuables in the trunk if you need to leave your car.
- **Don’t leave your car running.** Even if you’re only gone for a second to buy a cup of coffee, this is a good way to become both a victim and a pedestrian.
- **Buy a cross-cut shredder.** This keeps dumpster divers

from acquiring your financial and personal information. After shredding, just put the material in a paper bag and dispose of it properly.

- **Be involved.** Report suspicious people in your neighborhood and in-progress crimes right away. Dial 9-1-1 or, for non-emergencies, 206-296-3311.

Chief Thompson says one of the best things about Sammamish is that we have very little violent crime, but he encourages people to protect themselves from “opportunity thieves.”

“If people take proper precautions, they’ll save themselves a lot of headaches, and free police to work on other serious matters.”

CITY HALL CALENDAR

November

Thursday, Nov. 1

Planning Comm. Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Arts Commission Reception, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 12

Veteran’s Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Nov. 13

City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Parks & Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Planning Comm. Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.
Sammamish Library

Monday, Nov. 19

City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Day
City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 23

Holiday
City offices closed

Thursday, Nov. 29

Planning Commission Mtg, 5:30 p.m.

December

Tuesday, Dec. 4

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6

Planning Comm. Mtg, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Parks & Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Planning Comm. Mtg, 4:30 p.m.
Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.
Sammamish Library

Monday, Dec. 17

City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 20

Planning Comm. Mtg, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Christmas
City offices closed

NOTE: All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Mark Cross
Mayor



Lee Felling
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Homecoming Parade



Skyline High School students march up 228th Avenue as part of their Oct. 5 Homecoming celebration. In the football game later that evening, the Skyline Spartans defeated Interlake High School 49-6.

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Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Ass't City Mgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Kamuron Gurol	Community Dev Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Steve Hartwig	City Engineer
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



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