

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 133

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

On budget and on time

COMMUNITY CENTER'S DESIGN PENCILS OUT AT \$30 MILLION

No longer just a shimmering concept, the city's soon-to-be-constructed Community and Aquatic Center was presented in sharp detail to the City Council and Parks Commission last month.

The updated design, which trimmed some \$2 million from an earlier budget number, is now priced at \$30 million, the figure residents agreed to when they voted in favor of the project in November.

"The City Council still has some questions and suggestions regarding the design, and those are being looked at," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "But after a lot of work and public input, we're starting to get a pretty clear picture of what this new facility is going to look like. It's exciting."

The two-level, 60,000-square-foot

See BUDGET, pg. 3



Sammamish Landing Beach Party!

Although it's been open for more than a year, Sammamish Landing will have its official ribbon cutting, and a beach party to boot, on Wednesday, July 26, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The eight-acre waterfront park, on Lake Sammamish just below the northern city limits (4607 E. Lake Sammamish Parkway N.E.), features two docks, a pair of picnic shelters and room to swim, kayak and tie up boats.

In addition to the 6:15 p.m. ribbon cutting, the beach party will feature

live music, ample picnic space and vendors offering hot dogs and ice cream.

"This will be a nice coming out party for Sammamish Landing," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "People are already using it, but this should really get the word out."

Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike or boat to the event, since there is no parking lot on site. For the nearest parking options, and other information about the event, go to www.sammamish.us/events/BeachParty.aspx.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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Our not-so-hidden problem(s)

Sammamish residents enjoy a life largely free from crime and many of the social issues that plague other cities. We also enjoy our high ranking when magazines put out their lists of the “best places to live.”



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

All of this is great chamber of commerce material, and gives residents – and their civic leadership – much of which to be proud.

However, life in our west coast Eden, as fine as it is, is not immune from all problems. We have lost three of our young people to suicide during this past school year, an unusually high number for both Sammamish and similar communities. Why?

We’ve also produced some other worrisome statistics. Forty percent of our DUI stops involve people under 21. That’s much higher than the stats in similar and nearby communities.

In Sammamish, among those arrested there was a 50-50 split between alcohol and drugs. Our neighboring jurisdictions report that 10-12% of their DUI arrestees are underage. Again, the question is why?

We ask ourselves what can be done to protect our youth and reduce the stats for both suicide and DUI. Many parents, community groups and civic officials have pulled together in an effort to understand the underlying pressures and causes.

Well before the recent media

headlines about the “drinking” problem among our youth, Sammamish Police, local churches, counseling and PTSA organizations, Tri-Awareness, the Sammamish Youth Board, and several other groups began meeting and talking about the problem.

Are suicide and underage use of alcohol and drugs related? Possibly. Our kids often say they find themselves under enormous pressure to succeed so they can get that athletic scholarship, or admission to the “right” college.

Our community is full of young people scheduled every day from dawn to lights out, often with no time to be kids. Parental expectations, academic demands and peer pressure can be very powerful – and the results, in some cases, can be devastating.

An effective fix needs to start early. Surveys indicate alcohol and drug use can start before middle school and then rise alarmingly through high school. Over the course of any 30 days, 43 percent of seniors reportedly used alcohol and 24 percent reportedly used marijuana.

Over the course of two weeks, 24 percent of seniors and 10 percent of juniors reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a row). Among students, there appears to be little to no social stigma attached to these activities.

Where do they get the stuff? Unfortunately, a main source is the home liquor cabinet, a spot easily accessed when parents are absent. Also unfortunate, some adults think it’s okay for kids to drink at home – and even

include their friends. This needs to change.

The City Council may well look at adopting a version of the hosting ordinance currently on the books in Mercer Island. That ordinance provides for a very stiff fine for homeowners where liquor is consumed by minors.

As we’ve noted, the substance abuse issue is much more than alcohol. Drugs, prescription and street, are a significant problem in our community and may well get worse with the legalization and coming retail availability of marijuana.

If your child needs help, here are some places you can call:

- **CrossPath Counseling and Consultation** (425-369-1111)
- **Friends of Youth** (425-869-6490)
- **Youth Eastside Services** (425-747-4937)
- **24 Hour Crisis Line** (866-427-4747)
- For more information, go to: www.madd.org

Another suggestion: Be supportive of the community’s efforts to identify and deal with the underlying causes of underage alcohol and drug use.

We believe your engagement, together with the city’s support for all community groups, will produce the unified approach required to address this very significant problem.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

BUDGET, cont. from pg. 1

building, which will be constructed on nine acres of city-owned land just west of the library, will be accessed by a new road circling behind City Hall from 228th Avenue.

Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS), the Denver firm designing the facility, went over a long list of features at their June 11 presentation in the Council chambers. Those features (outlined graphically on the right side of this page) include:

- A leisure pool and a six-lane, 25-yard lap pool
- One full-size gymnasium with room set aside for a half-gym should that be added later
- Locker rooms, including private family rooms
- A fitness space with weights, cardio and circuit training equipment
- Two group fitness rooms
- A multi-purpose room and family center room
- A child watch area and an adventure play zone
- A small kitchen for cooking demonstrations
- Approximately 300 parking spaces, more than half of them in a parking structure.

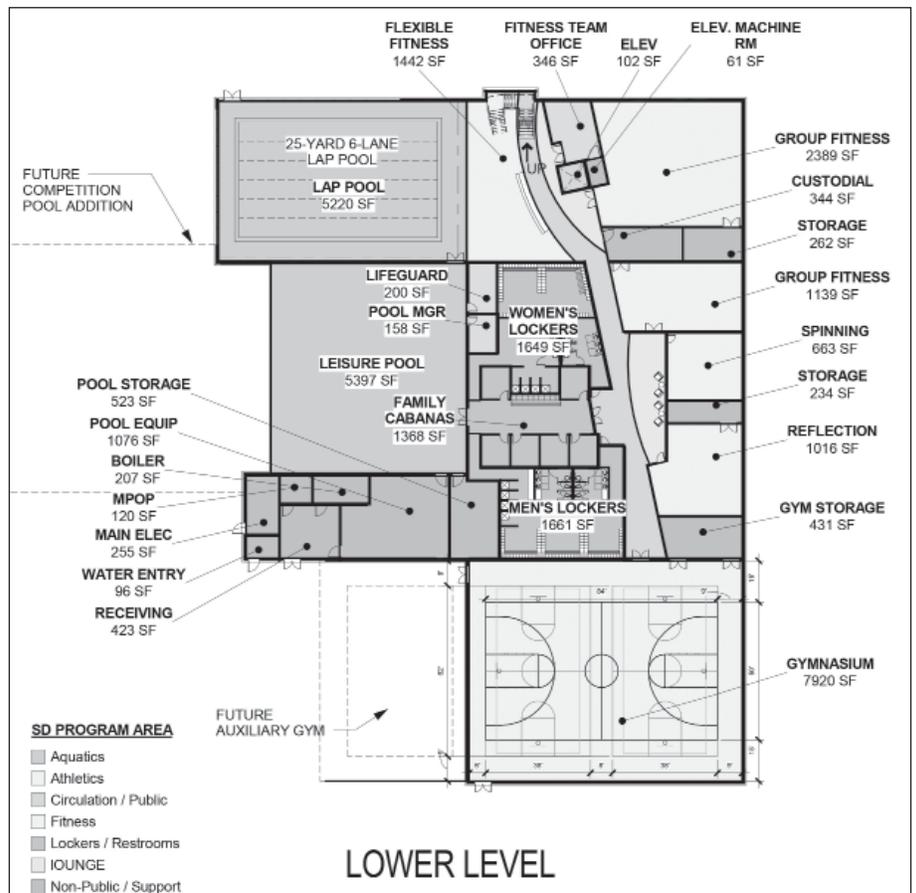
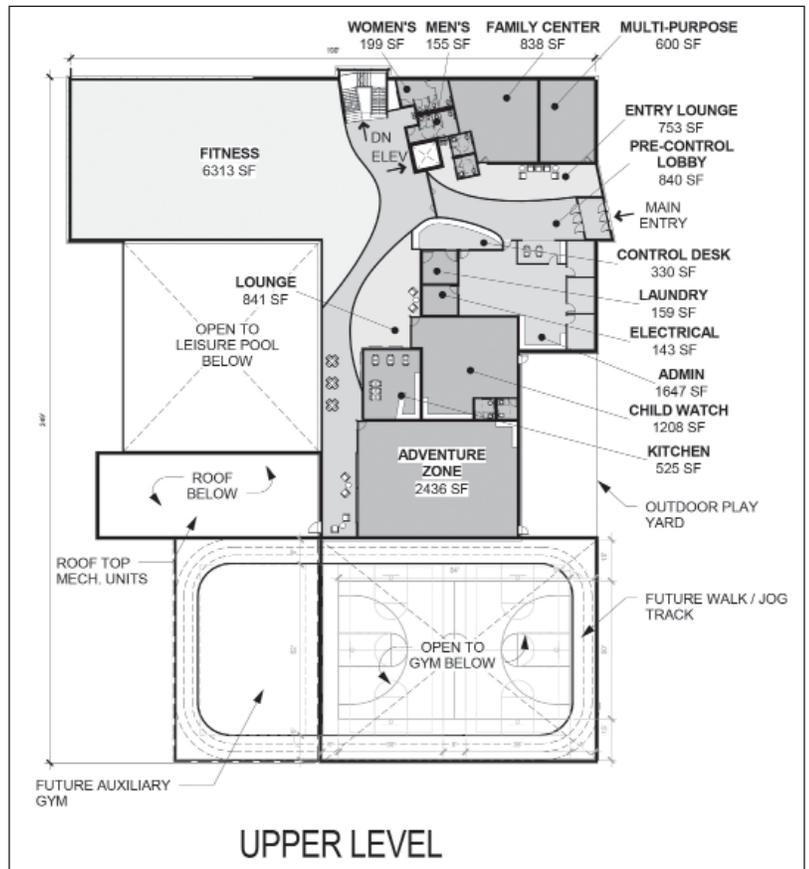
After about a year of design and permitting work, BRS is scheduled to deliver the necessary construction documents between October 2013 and February 2014, with the construction contract being awarded in May or June of 2014. If everything goes according to plan, construction will begin in June 2014 and conclude in December 2015.

Parks Director Jessi Bon is crossing her fingers, hoping that weather, soil and other issues don't interfere with a prudent but brisk schedule.

"This is a substantial project, so a number of things are bound to come up, but we're hoping to meet that schedule," Bon said. "One thing is for sure, though. Whether we're early, on time, or a little bit late – we're going to get it right."

To stay up-to-date on the project, go to www.sammamish.us and click through *departments, parks and rec, parks, and "Community and Aquatic Center."*

The BRS power point presentation seen by the City Council can be viewed in its entirety by clicking on the *"documents"* tab.



It's fireworks, food and fun!!!

It's time to wave the flag, dance to the music and cover your ears – another Fourth on the Plateau is about to blast off!

The fireworks will light up the Sammamish sky around 10 p.m., but the fun begins at 6 p.m. when the picnic blankets go down, the music picks up and the food vendors get busy.

“This will be our seventh year of fireworks in Sammamish,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Our sponsors, vendors, city staffers and pyrotechnicians are ready to go!”

As always, most of the attendees will enter the Lower Commons on foot via Southeast Fourth Street, gaining easy access to play areas for the kids and a grass slope for ideal viewing of the fireworks.



Waiting for the fireworks after capturing a prime spot in the Lower Commons.

Fourth on the Plateau

Sponsored by

Microsoft  **SWEDISH**

RHONDA NEWTON D.D.S.
— FAMILY DENTISTRY —
On the Plateau

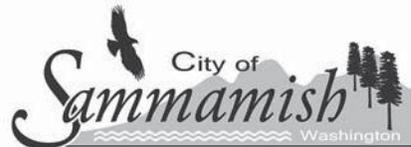
 **SAMMAMISH PLATEAU**
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT


Skyhawks
THE LEADER IN YOUTH SPORTS SINCE 1979.

 **SAMMI**
AWARDS FOUNDATION

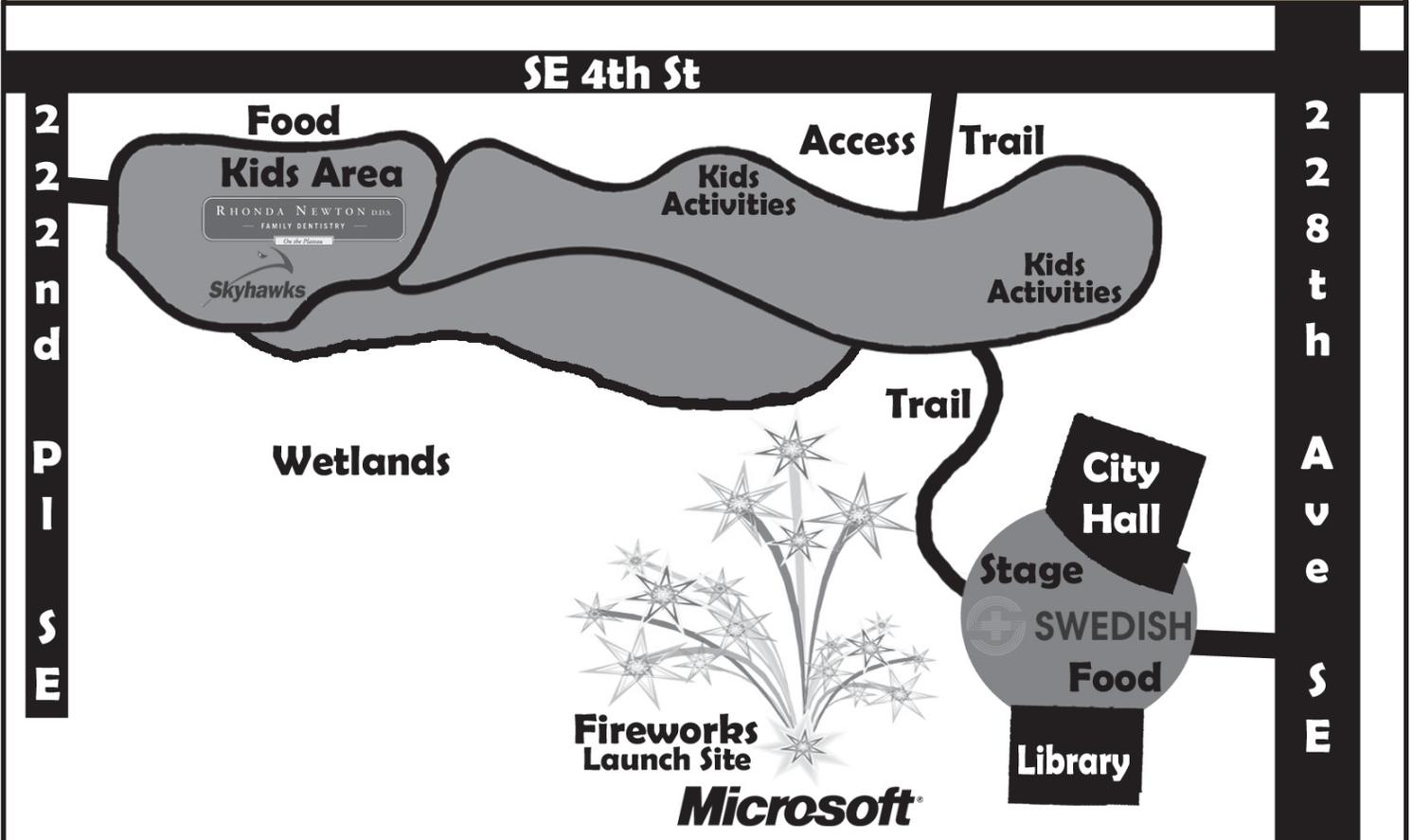
 **SAMMAMISH REVIEW**

ISSAQUAH | SAMMAMISH
Reporter
www.issaquahreporter.com

 **City of Sammamish**
Washington



Celebration site map



Parking locations:

Paid parking – \$5

- Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church
- Mary Queen of Peace Church
- Skyline High School

Free for handicapped only

- Sammamish City Hall

More free parking

- Eastside Catholic School
- Pine Lake Covenant Church
- Discovery Elementary
- Safeway Shopping Center
- Pine Lake Park
- Sammamish Park & Ride
- Eastlake High School

No left turns onto or off of 228th, please!

To help with traffic flow before, during and after the July 4th event, no left turns will be allowed onto or off of 228th Avenue between N.E. Main St. and S.E. 20th St. from 4 p.m. to midnight. Northbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach N.E. Fourth St. Southbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach S.E. 24th St. NOTE: S.E. Fourth St. will be closed to vehicular traffic after the fireworks to allow residents to exit the Lower Commons.



National Night Out!

Once a year, Americans across the country are encouraged to have barbecues, block parties and other social events to solidify the neighborly connections that can serve as a barrier to crime. This year, “National Night Out” will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

To get things rolling, residents are invited to a “Safe and Sound Sammamish” event at City Hall Plaza, 801 228th Ave. S.E., from 2 to 5 p.m. This community safety and awareness fair will let you visit with members of the Sammamish Police Department, view law enforcement vehicles and enjoy award-winning magician Louie Foxx.

The Radio Disney (AM 1250) Road Crew will also be on site with prizes and interactive entertainment for the whole family.

For more information about this nationwide initiative, go to www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/. And to register your neighborhood for a National Night Out event, go to www.sammamishcitizenscorps.com. All neighborhoods that sign up by July 31 will receive a packet of NNO goodies from the Sammamish Citizen Corps.

East meets West through art, poetry and revolution

Beginning July 8, two artists from China and a fourth-generation Chinese-American artist from the eastside will exhibit their work in Sammamish City Hall. Entitled “East Meets West through Art, Poetry, and Revolution,” the exhibit will be open to the public during normal business hours through Sept. 30.

The art on display will reflect the impact of revolutions and social movements on young artists – the Cultural Revolution in China, for example, and the women’s movement and civil rights struggle in the U.S.

The artists:

- Lu Yangsheng – He is a professor emeritus of the Minorities University in Beijing.
- Lu Shuanqi – A poet and glass artist from Beijing, she is Lu Yangsheng’s sister.
- Cheryl Leo-Gwin – An established Chinese-American artist, and a friend of the visiting artists, she was recently accepted into the Fulbright Foundation’s Senior Specialist Roster of Scholars.

The Arts Commission will host a special reception for the artists at City Hall on Thursday, Sept. 12.

The grass isn’t greener on the other side of the storm drain!

Your yard may look nice after you mow the lawn, but please don’t spoil the picture by letting your grass clippings migrate into a storm drain!

If you do, you’ll be injecting unhealthy levels of nitrogen and phosphorous into our streams and lakes, creating unsightly accumulations of algae, and potentially killing fish.

To avoid that, please do the following:

- Bag and remove grass clippings and leaves. Put them in your yard waste container so they can be hauled away, or compost them!
- Leave grass clipping on your lawn where they can decompose, provide nutrients to your lawn, and reduce the need for fertilizer.
- Sweep up your driveway, walkways and other hard surfaces so the rain doesn’t wash your clippings into a storm drain.

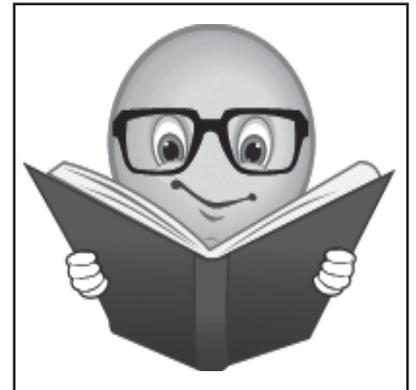
Know your city code!

As the garage sale season gets in full swing, residents should remember that the Sammamish Municipal Code does not exempt or permit the placement

of garage sale signs along city roadways, on street corners, in median strips or anywhere in the public right of way.

The reason for the prohibition: The signs litter city streets, obstruct traffic sightlines, and often damage landscaping and private property. If found, the signs may be removed by the city’s code compliance officer.

For additional information about the city’s sign ordinance, residents can visit the city website at www.sammamish.us, find “regulations” in the sidebar, and go to Chapter 21A.45.



CITY CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday, July 2

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.- noon Lower Commons
- City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 4

- Fourth on the Plateau, 6-10 p.m.

Friday, July 5

- Fifth of July Clean Up, 9 a.m.-noon

Monday, July 8

- East meets West through Art, Poetry and Revolution, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- City Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

- Comm and Econ Dev Cmte Mtg, 5-6:15 p.m.
- City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
- Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 11

- Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 15

- Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 16

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-noon Lower Commons

Wednesday, July 17

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 18

- Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- Community Garden Steering Cmte, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

- Sammamish Walks, 10-11:30 a.m. Big Rock Park

Wednesday, July 24

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
- Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

Thursday, July 25

- Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
- IPAD Art Class, 5-6 p.m.

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 6

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-noon Lower Commons
- Safe and Sound Sammamish, 2-5 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 7

- Donate Blood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 10

- Sammamish Days, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sammamish Nights, 6-10 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 15

- Community Garden Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 17

- Sammamish Walks, Evans Creek Preserve, 10 a.m.-noon

Monday, Aug. 19

- Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-noon Lower Commons

Wednesday, Aug. 21

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

- Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Kids First! Performance Series

July 9, noon, Eric Herman and the Thunder Puppies, Beaver Lake Park,
Sponsor: TLC Montessori

July 23, noon, Brian Waite Band, East Sammamish Park,
Sponsors: TLC Montessori, Overlake Hospital

July 30, 1 p.m., Eli Rosenblatt Band, Sammamish Commons,
Sponsor: Friends of the Sammamish Library

Aug. 13, 1 p.m., Charlie Hope, Sammamish Commons,
Sponsor: Friends of the Sammamish Library

Aug. 20, noon, Eric Ode, Ebright Creek Park

Aug. 27, 1 p.m., Alex Zerbe, Sammamish Commons,
Sponsor: Friends of the Sammamish Library

Wooden O Shakespeare Plays

Outdoor Theater at Pine Lake Park
with the Seattle Shakespeare Company

Henry V

Saturday, July 20, 7 p.m.

The Tempest

Saturday, July 27, 7 p.m.



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John James
Councilmember



Tom Vance
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Summer Concerts in the Park

(On Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m., at Pine Lake Park)

July 11
Mulligans Rock
(Classic Rock)

July 18
Creme Tangerine
(Beatles tribute)

July 25
Chance McKinney
(Modern country)

August 1
The Tropics!
(Classic rock)

August 8
Cherry Cherry
(Neil Diamond tribute)

August 15
Petty Fever
(Tom Petty tribute)

August 22
Sammammish Symphony
(Tall Ships)

August 29
North Country
(Bluegrass)

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Wes Collins	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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