

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 165

CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

Arrest slows down mailbox break-ins

SAMMAMISH MAIL FOUND IN MERCER ISLAND CAR

Sammmamish residents concerned about a series of mailbox break-ins may owe a debt of gratitude to a pair of watchful eyes in another city.

That's because a Mercer Island resident called police on Feb. 15 after seeing a suspicious car parked in front of a mailbox.

When the driver was taken into custody, Mercer Island Police found 52 pounds of mail in his vehicle. Many of the items carried Sammmamish addresses.

Ever since that arrest, the number of mailbox break-ins in Sammmamish has dropped dramatically, suggesting that the man arrested on Mercer Island may have been responsible for many of the thefts reported by Sammmamish residents.

Mercer Island Police say the alleged thief was a 23-year-old male from Issaquah. He was driving a rented vehicle at the time of his arrest.

See ARREST, pg. 4



The "Village at Sammamish Town Center" (228th Ave. S.E. and S.E. 4th Street).

The Town Center is just coming to life, but its community roots are very deep

The brisk pace of construction near the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street may have caught some people by surprise, but the stores, apartments, offices and public places taking shape there are the product of a very long, methodical community effort that stretches back more

than a dozen years.

It began with the Planning Advisory Board, a group of resident volunteers who helped put together the city's first comprehensive plan. The plan, adopted by the City Council in 2003, called for the creation of a new "heart

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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STORMWATER PLAN

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ROUNDAABOUT ART

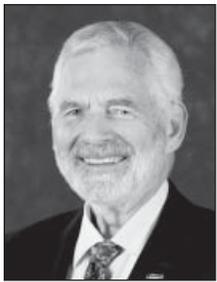
Story on page 6

Will higher education come to Sammamish?

In 2012 Forbes Magazine ranked Sammamish as the “friendliest” city in the United States. This ranking was largely based on four criteria – a high percentage of home ownership, a low crime rate, high charitable giving and a highly educated populace.

Highly educated? Yes, Sammamish is now a city of over 60,000, with a K-12 education ranking among the best on the West Coast. There are three great high schools: Eastlake in the Lake Washington School District, Skyline in the Issaquah School District, and the independent Eastside Catholic School.

There is not, however, an institute of higher learning in our community.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

ing for higher education has tightened in recent years, making expansions or new locations more difficult.

So, until colleges can make their arrangements, it appears we'll have to lease the space on an interim basis. Fortunately, we've received many inquiries from individuals and organizations interested in doing just that.

Over the next few weeks, the Council will consider its options and make a good choice. One of the city's options, of course, would be to resell the property.

But given that additional colleges have recently stepped up to express their interest in the building, it's my fervent hope that in several years we will have succeeded in establishing an institute of higher education in our great city!

No local destination for Running Start students, two-year or four-year degree programs, or people learning English as a second language. We also lack continuing education opportunities for teachers, realtors, human resource specialists and information technology workers, just to name a few.

Your City Council saw that need and, when a property became available within walking distance of the three high schools, we took action. After receiving indications of interest from Bellevue College, Cascadia College and Lake Washington Technical Institute, the city negotiated the purchase of the 31,000-square-foot building on 228th Avenue Southeast that was previously the home of Mars Hill Church.

This was nearly a year ago and for various reasons we still don't have a firm higher education program materializing. One reason is that state fund-

ing for higher education has tightened in recent years, making expansions or new locations more difficult.

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City to update Stormwater Management Comprehensive Plan

RESIDENTS URGED TO ATTEND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS ON APRIL 7, MAY 5, MAY 19

When a city grows rapidly among trees, streams and lakes, as Sammamish has, few things are more important than a well-thought-out stormwater management plan.

With that in mind, the city will begin to update its “Stormwater Management Comprehensive Plan” at a meeting of the Planning Commission on April 7. Additional meetings are scheduled for May 5 and May 19.

“We certainly hope to get a good turnout for these public meetings,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “The Planning Commission will get

a thorough briefing from staff, but they also need to hear from our residents, the people who can provide a real-life perspective that is extremely valuable.”

The updated plan will discuss the existing stormwater management program, current natural and constructed surface water systems, programmatic strategies, and recommended levels of service.

Given that the last update was in 2001, there will be a substantial number of new, state-mandated regulatory requirements and management techniques for the Planning Commission-

ers to consider.

The City Council will receive recommendations from the Planning Commission later this year. After taking in additional public comment and making whatever improvements or adjustments it deems necessary, the City Council is expected to adopt the updated plan sometime this summer.

For more information on the update, contact Senior Stormwater Program Manager Tawni Dalziel at tdalziel@sammamish.us or 425-295-0567.

TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1
of the city.”

That imperative led to the most inclusive and in-depth sequence of public processes the city has ever seen. Here are some of the highlights:

- An 18-member “special study area task force” made up of residents was formed in 2004.
- The task force delivered recommendations to the Council in 2005.
- Based on public input, the City Council adopted a “Town Center Vision Statement” in March 2006.
- Starting in 2006, seven property owner forums were held.
- Ten Town Center Committee meetings were held beginning in March 2006.
- A Town Center bus tour, design charrette, and preliminary alternatives open house were scheduled in 2006.
- The volunteer Town Center Committee gave its recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council in early 2007.
- A Design Guidelines Discussion Forum was held in July 2007.
- The City Council adopted the



In February 2007, residents discussed their preferences for the Town Center.

Town Center plan in 2008.

What did it call for? The 240-acre Town Center was to be a mixture of retail, residential, recreational, commercial and public spaces, all bound and fed by a network of pedestrian-friendly pathways.

The Town Center would also absorb growth, mitigate the impact on existing neighborhoods, and produce less additional traffic than a similar amount of growth spread throughout the city.

Although the projects now underway fit the bill, it took a while for the Town Center to get going thanks to the severe economic downturn that began shortly after the plan passed in 2008.

“It took a few years, but the private sector is starting to build out what our residents envisioned,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “The Town Center is going to be a place where people can gather, live, work, play and socialize. In just a few years, it really is going to be the heart of our city.”



Residents, consultants and city officials board a bus to visit town centers in other western Washington cities.



Bus tour participants stop at a town center in Juanita.

Seniors! The Community Center is calling your name!

When the new Community and Aquatic Center opens next month, the YMCA personnel operating the facility are going to welcome people of all ages – including seniors!

So, if you're an active older adult (AOA), or have recently decided to be one, the opening should be an exciting day in your life. Here are a just a few of the AOA offerings:

- Low-impact group exercise classes. Enjoy a variety of AOA classes, including Zumba Gold, cardio and strength workouts, Gentle Yoga and much more.
- Seminars – Learn more about your health as local community health partners cover a variety of topics.
- Senior Socials – Themes vary each month. No membership is required.
- Book Club – Make new-



friends at the Y's monthly Book Club! You will read a new book every month and engage in lively discussions with other readers.

- Day Trips – Enjoy getting to know your community by going on these monthly outings to local venues.
- Coffee – Sit back, relax and enjoy coffee with your fellow AOA's. This daily pleasure is free to all members.

It's well known that older adults are seeking more than physical benefits when they exercise. They also want a sense of community, strong social ties, and the opportunity to retain their mental agility.

If all that sounds good to you, maybe you should consider a membership! For more information, please go to join.sammamishymca.org.

ARREST, cont. from pg. 1

The Mercer Island resident's actions are exactly what the Sammamish Police Department hopes will happen here.

If a resident sees a vehicle parked in front of an individual mailbox or a group of mailboxes, they should call 9-1-1 and let the police know. If possible, they should also try to get a description of the vehicle and write down the license plate number.

The cases in Sammamish have been scattered all over the city (see map on right). In typical cases, it appears the thieves have used a flat-blade screwdriver or a pry bar to open up the locked mailboxes.

Although the arrest in Mercer Island may have eased the immediate problem in Sammamish, the police department is asking for continued vigilance throughout the city.



This map shows where mailbox incidents occurred from mid-December to early February.

Friends throw big farewell party for Ben Yazici

As his 15-year tenure as Sammamish city manager officially came to an end last month, Ben Yazici found himself surrounded by friends, family and colleagues at a rollicking goodbye party on the evening of Feb. 25 at City Hall.

Emceed by former Councilmember and media personality John Curley, the event featured a slide show of Yazici's accomplishments, plenty of jokes and warm recollections from the many people who've been part of his personal and professional journey. Funded entirely by his friends, the party came



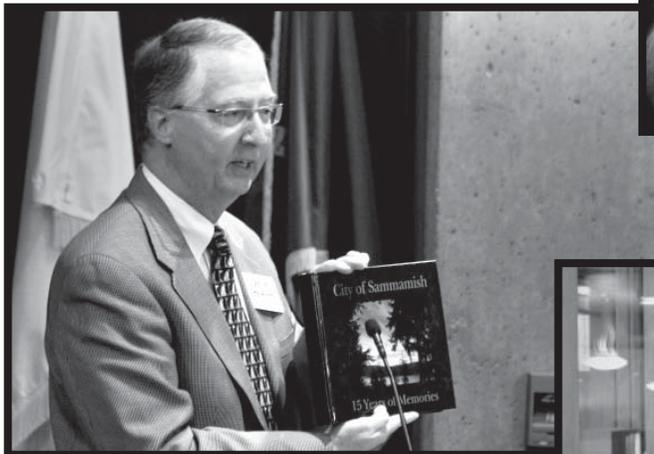
Ben Yazici and Aysel Sanderson listen as jokes, memories and best wishes fill the room.



Former Councilmember John Curley emcees the event.



Lisa Kennedy and Aysel Sanderson (on left) chat with former Issaquah School District Superintendent Janet Barry and former Sammamish Mayor and Councilmember Jack Barry.



New City Manager Lyman Howard presents Ben Yazici with a book of memories.

to a close with some heartfelt remarks from the guest of honor.

"Hopefully, I'm still a long way from that moment when I get to look back on my entire life, but I know, when that moment comes, the memories we've made together here in Sammamish will be bright, they'll be sweet, and I will carry them forward in my heart forever."



Dino Rossi (in white shirt) visits with (from left) Councilmembers Tom Hornish, Christie Malchow and Ramiro Valderrama.

Art pieces now adorn city roundabouts!

WEATHERED WOOD FOR SCULPTURES CAME FROM AN OLD RED BARN

It was Claradell Shedd's idea to place art work in the middle of our city roundabouts, but like most good notions, it took a lot of work to make it all come true.

As a member of the Sammamish Arts Commission, Claradell helped reach out to Sammamish artist Al Zold, a retired Boeing employee with a special interest in artistic woodwork.

Zold, whose work has been featured at the Sammamish Arts Fair and in local galleries, noted that weathered wood, the most appropriate material, was not easy to come by.

As luck would have it, though, an old red barn was about to make way for the new Metropolitan Market project at the intersection of 228th Avenue and South-

east Fourth Street.

So, Claradell arranged for her husband Harry and the owner of the barn, Norbert Woloszyn, to collect the old wood as they dismantled the barn.

Today, that weathered wood has

The third location for roundabout art is at 216th Avenue Northeast and Inglewood Hill Road. There you will find a sculpture titled "Forms in Flight."

The three art pieces, all approximately four feet wide and eight feet tall, were created by Zold.

"We should thank Claradell and Harry Shedd, Al Zold, and Norbert Woloszyn for all the work they put in to make this happen," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "Many thanks also to the Sammamish Arts Commission for their help and support."

With more weathered wood still available from the old red barn, and more roundabouts to adorn, the Arts Commission hopes to install additional sculptures later this year.



"Circle the Roundabout" at N.E. 8th St. and 244th Ave. N.E.



"11 Steps; Ladder 83" at S.E. 32nd Way and Issaquah-Pine Lake Rd.

been repurposed, carefully sculpted, and placed in the middle of three roundabouts.

One, titled "Circle the Roundabout," is located at the intersection of Northeast Eighth Street and 244th Avenue Southeast.

Another, titled "11 steps; Ladder 83," is in the roundabout at the intersection of Southeast 32nd Way and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, which also happens to be the location of Fire Station 83.



"Forms in Flight" at 216th Ave. N.E. and Inglewood Hill Road

CITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday, March 1

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

Wednesday, March 2

-Short Course on Local Planning,
Bellevue City Hall, 6-9 p.m.
-Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 5

-Volunteer at Beaver Lake Park
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
-Build It Sammamish Lego Event,
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 12

-Master Gardener Workshop:
Growing Veggies, 1:30-4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15

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

Wednesday, March 16

-Samm Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 17

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

Friday, March 18

-Blood Drive,
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, March 19

-“Make It A Clay Day”
FREE Inclusive Event, 1-4 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

Tuesday, March 22

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

Monday, March 28

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

APRIL

Saturday, April 2

-Short Course on Local Planning,
6-9 p.m., Bellevue City Hall

Tuesday, April 5

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

Wednesday, April 6

-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

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

Saturday, April 9

-Master Gardener Workshop:
Fruits & Berries, 1:30-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12

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

Friday, April 15

-Art Exhibit - Gail Twelves “Eye to Eye”,
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

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

Wednesday, April 20

-Sammamish Youth Board Mtg,
6-7 p.m.

Friday, April 22

-Exhibiting Artist Reception, 6-8 p.m.

Monday, April 25

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

Saturday, April 30

-Rig-A-Palooza, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
-“Au-Some Artists!”
FREE Inclusive Event, 1-4 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

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.

10th Annual
Sammamish ARTS Fair
fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application deadline May 15th 2016

Fair dates: October 8th & 9th, 2016

Sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission

For more information: www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com





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*Kathy Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

Make it a Clay Day!

Saturday, March 19 – 1-3 p.m.
Sammamish Teen Center, 825 228th Ave. N.E.



Sponsors: Sammamish Arts Commission, Boys & Girls Clubs, and 4Culture
Register for this free event at www.sammamish.us/boards/arts/ClayDay.aspx
For more information: Lin Garretson at specialartssammamish@gmail.com

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Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Jeff Clark	Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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