

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 183

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2017

Court decision on trail sweeps aside local jurisdiction

CITY WILL DEFEND ITS RIGHTS WITH NINTH CIRCUIT APPEAL

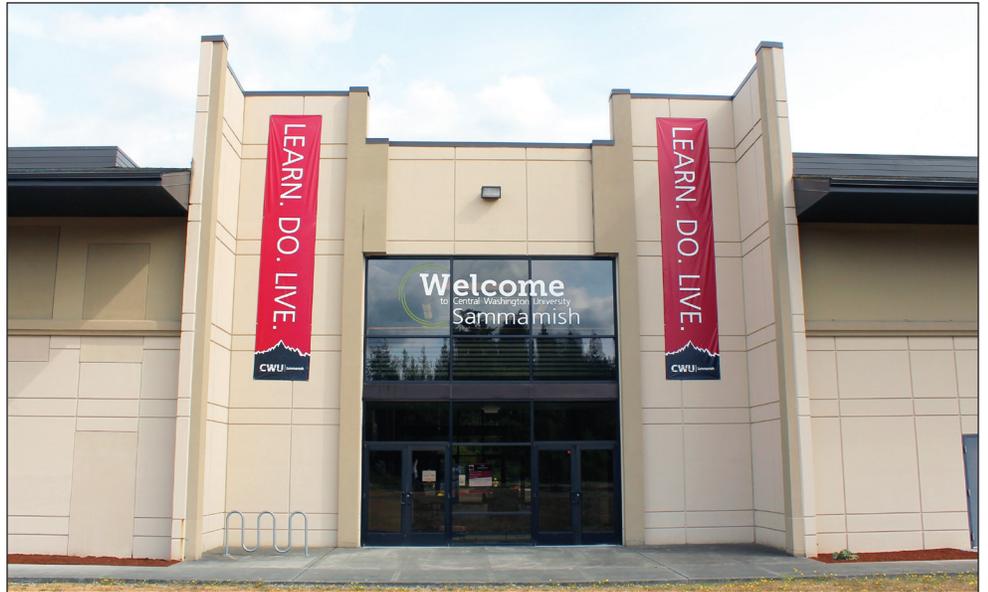
After concluding that an Aug. 8 federal court decision on the East Lake Sammamish Trail may place ominous limits on the city's ability to protect public safety, preserve the environment, and properly manage its road network, the city filed an appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

While the appeal is pending in the Ninth Circuit, the city has also asked the United States District Court in Seattle to reconsider the preliminary injunction it ordered, which forbids the city from regulating two public street intersections where they cross the trail, or taking any other regulatory actions that would impede or delay King County's construction of the trail.

The trail lies in a now inactive railroad corridor. Under federal law, the Surface Transportation Board retains jurisdiction over these "rails to trails" corridors in case they're needed for railroad use in the future.

After consulting with city attorneys, City Manager Lyman Howard said the

See APPEAL, pg. 4



Welcome signs are up at Central Washington University - Sammamish.

Central Washington University! SAMMAMISH CAMPUS OPENS SEPTEMBER 20

When the Sammamish City Council took a bold step and purchased the old Mars Hill Church in 2015, they did so to fulfill a vision – to bring higher education to Sammamish.

On Sept. 20, when Central Washington University - Sammamish officially opens its doors, the vision will have become reality.

"We're so pleased to partner with the people of the Sammamish area to begin offering higher education programs, CWU President James Gaudino said.

Initially, CWU will place a major emphasis on "Running Start," a program that allows students to take college courses while they're still in high school. With Eastlake, Eastside Catholic and Skyline High Schools all within walking distance, CWU is perfectly positioned to provide those services.

For more information on the full range of academic offerings, go to CWU.edu/sammamish or call 509-963-1351.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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PRO PLAN

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THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Story on page 6

Light rail is knocking at our door!

Whatever your feelings about light rail – and I know there are strong sentiments on all sides – I wanted to share some thoughts I had as the Sammamish City Council met with the Redmond City Council last month.

Although the primary topic was State Route 202, a corridor of mutual interest we discussed at length, in the course of the meeting we also touched on light rail.



*Bob Keller
Mayor*

And here are some things to know:

- Redmond's Sound Transit light rail station is going to be part of their Marymoor Village Sub-Area Plan.
- Marymoor Village is located just north of our city limits, right near the East Lake Sammamish Parkway.
- The light rail station at Marymoor Village is scheduled to open in 2024. The station will be just six miles

from Sammamish City Hall.

Think about it! In just six years or so, Sammamish residents will be a very short drive away from light rail. I may never drive to the airport and pay parking fees again!

We've heard so much about Issaquah's light rail station not opening until much later this century – 2041 – I think many residents in our community may be a bit surprised that this transit opportunity will be coming so soon!

Speaking of opportunities, many thanks to the Redmond City Council for hosting us in their city and conducting a thorough discussion of the SR 202 corridor and the potential improvements that could make life easier for all of our regional commuters.

As part of that discussion, we shared information about the hard work our Council Legislative Committee has done over the past two years – walking the hallways of the state legislature, seeking funding support for a corridor study, and generally raising awareness about the impact SR 202 has on the lives of Sammamish residents.

I'm happy to report the budget for the

corridor study was approved in this last session. That means the city will be working in conjunction with the state to identify deficiencies and recommend improvements.

One known opportunity will be "intelligent connected signalization" between the state, King County, Redmond and Sammamish. As in most things, coordination and cooperation are the key ingredients.

So, although there are no easy solutions to the growth that affects the entire Puget Sound region, I hope you'll take heart from these new developments.

Maybe in the next few years I'll see you on a faster flowing SR 202 – as we take the short drive to Marymoor and catch the train to the airport!

In the meantime, don't forget to give us some feedback on our Transportation Master Plan, a roadmap for our transportation policies over the next 20 years. To offer thoughts and identify your priorities, just enter goo.gl/K55rA3 into your browser. We want to know what you think!

Bob Keller

Health and human services needs assessment continues

Sammamish is conducting a Health and Human Services Needs Assessment to identify community needs, available resources, and the gaps that may exist in the range of available services.

The city completed the first phase of the study this summer by collecting information about health and human services needs. This fall, city leaders will begin to discuss policies aimed at addressing those needs.

This process will ultimately result in an implementation strategy that will manage the evaluation and delivery of services over the next three to five years.

For more information about health and human services in Sammamish, just go to www.sammamish.us and select the community involvement tab.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Sept. 8, 9, 10 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Trail work at Beaver Lake Preserve

Sept. 15 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Trail Work at Beaver Lake Preserve

Sept. 23 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plant trees, remove invasives
at Evans Creek Preserve

ADA access ramp finishing up at Sammamish Landing

If you've wondered what all that construction near Sammamish Landing Park is all about, take a look at the picture below. It's the new "ADA Access Improvement Project," moving methodically and briskly towards completion.

The project includes the American's with Disabilities Act ramp, which will ease the way for people in wheelchairs, and others with mobility challenges.

The city's lone waterfront park, located along East Lake Sammamish Parkway

near the northern city limits, will also be equipped with a brand new set of restrooms and an outdoor shower.

The park remains open as the construction continues. Residents can use the parking lot on the eastern side of the Parkway,

make their way to the other side of the road on a crosswalk equipped with flashing lights, and then access the park via a temporary wooden staircase at the north end of the project.

The improvements are expected to finish up this fall.



ADA access ramp and new restroom under construction.

Community invited to provide input on the future of Parks & Recreation

The city of Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department will be asking for community input on options for the future of parks and recreation programming at the Sept. 20 Farmers Market.

The input will help the city ensure that the update of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan incorporates the needs, priorities and values of Sammamish residents.

This is the second opportunity for the community to get involved in the PRO Plan. The city already conducted extensive outreach this spring to capture "big picture" ideas, identify existing opportunities, and pinpoint top priorities for the future.

"We've worked hard to develop options that reflect what the community wants and needs," said Parks and Recreation Director Angie Feser. "We look forward to sharing them on Sept. 20, and and gathering

input so we can take the first step toward achieving a common vision for the future of our parks."

Since the PRO Plan was adopted in 2012, the city has experienced rapid growth, much of it the result of the Klahanie-area annexation. The PRO Plan will ensure that the city is keeping pace with growth and properly reflecting the community's evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programs.

A third major opportunity for public input on the draft PRO Plan will come around in November when a third public meeting will be held. Then, in early 2018, The PRO plan will be submitted to the City Council for its review and approval.

For more information about the PRO Plan, and the best ways to get involved in the public input process, go to www.sammamish.us/proplan.

2018 PRO plan

Share your input on the

PRO Plan

(Parks, Recreation and
Open Space Plan)

at the Farmers Market,
City Hall Plaza,
801 228th Ave. S.E.

Wednesday, Sept. 20,
4-8 p.m.

The future of Town Center: Accommodating growth

The Sammamish Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2015, describes how the city will accommodate its 20-year assigned housing and employment growth targets, as required by the state's Growth Management Act (GMA).

"Metropolitan Cities," like Seattle and Bellevue, are assigned the largest growth targets. "Core Cities," like Kirkland and Redmond, have smaller growth targets, and "Larger Cities," like Issaquah and Sammamish, have targets that are smaller still.

To demonstrate that they're positioned to meet those targets, cities must show that they have the capacity to ab-

sorb their assigned level of growth.

In the case of Sammamish, a lot of that capacity is built into the city's Town Center plan. Although its commercial and retail spaces are quite prominent at the moment, the Town Center's ability to absorb residential growth will become more apparent over time.

Among other things, the plan provides for an increased variety of housing types, including town homes, cottage homes and apartment homes (a portion of which are designated as long-term affordable units).

As the Town Center builds out, it will help accommodate a significant

portion of the housing growth target the city has been assigned in the past and will be assigned in the future.

While regional planning required by GMA does not provide Sammamish full autonomy with regard to its housing and employment growth, the city – and, by extension, its residents – maintains multiple degrees of control over where and how that growth will occur.

The Town Center reflects that control, and shows that city residents wanted to accommodate growth with a centrally located, walkable core with a variety of commercial services and housing types.

APPEAL, cont. from pg. 1

city is well positioned to preserve its regulatory rights.

"Among other things, the judge accepted the county's argument that their rights vis-à-vis this recreational trail are equivalent to the rights accorded to an 'active railroad,'" Howard said. "That doesn't make sense to us. And neither does the fact that the court ignored well-established guidance from the federal Surface Transportation Board that supports the city's position.

"The Surface Transportation Board has clearly and repeatedly stated that cities retain local authority to regulate safety and environmental concerns when former railroads are being used as recreational trails."

The District Court's order, however, determined that King County's control over the corridor was exclusive.

On Aug. 18, the city filed a "motion for clarification and/or reconsideration" with the District Court, a move the city hopes will clarify a

court decision stunning in its breadth.

"Reading the decision, you could conclude that the county has the right to do whatever it wants," Howard said. "But that doesn't make any sense. A city has permitting authority, and the right to protect the safety of its citizens, the health of its environment, and the integrity of its intersections.

"It's frustrating that it's come to this. The city is trying to facilitate the construction of this trail by issuing sound permits, but the county has taken us to court over what appear to be simple matters.

"The city should regulate its streets.

As things stand now, a judge has said that the county can regulate city streets."

King County sued the city, in part, over a city requirement that stop signs at two intersections face trail users rather than the motor vehicles crossing the trail.

Initially, the city was merely perplexed, noting that this was a relatively minor safety engineering judgment. But now, given that the judge's decision effectively sweeps aside the city's traditional regulatory authority over its own streets, Howard said the city's sense of alarm is appropriately elevated.

"This isn't about stop signs at a trail intersection," Howard said. "And it's not about impeding construction of a trail – a trail that the city and the vast majority of our residents support.

"But this is about something really important. This is about keeping our residents and trail users safe, preserving the environment, and ensuring that our jurisdictional rights are not being ignored by King County."



S.E. 33rd St, (foreground) crosses the trail path.

Council, staff begin review of concurrency, congestion

CONSULTANT WILL HELP BY EVALUATING SAMMAMISH'S CURRENT APPROACH, GUIDING EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVES, AND PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS

After voting in July to make traffic congestion the number one agenda item at every meeting, City Council members followed through on Sept. 5 by beginning a review of concurrency, levels of service (LOS), traffic modeling, impact fees and the requirements of the state's Growth Management Act (GMA).

"Those items make up the rubic's cube of public policy when it comes to managing growth and congestion," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "It's not an easy puzzle to work out, but our staff, with the help of a consultant, will examine opportunities to make things better."

Sammamish already has a concurrency policy and a traffic modeling program in place, but growing public concerns about congestion have prompted an in-depth review.

"Our Council members say residents talk to them about congestion more than anything else," Howard said. "Although it's

a regional problem that affects all cities, it's clear our Council wants to make sure they've done everything possible to optimize the city's policy."

The consultant, Kendra Breiland of Fehr & Peers, provided an overview at the Sept. 5 meeting, noting the advantages and disadvantages of the city's current policy, and outlining four primary tasks Fehr & Peers and the city staff will pursue going forward:

1. Assess current concurrency policy
2. Explore alternative concurrency models
3. Conduct a pair of three-hour transportation technical meetings

to examine options and select a preferred approach

4. In January 2018, present conclusions and a description of how a new concurrency approach would work.

To learn more about this complex topic, here are two links:

- Enter goo.gl/Ko2nPA into your browser to learn about concurrency.
- Enter goo.gl/44wFBY for a primer on the Growth Management Act.

To follow this important topic, feel free to attend all City Council meetings, watch them on Sam-

mamish 21 TV, or stream them on the city website (www.sammamish.us). To receive email alerts on the City Council meeting schedule, just click on the "Join our mailing list" tab in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page and follow the prompts.



Sahalee Way Northeast

Reducing pesticide use to help the environment

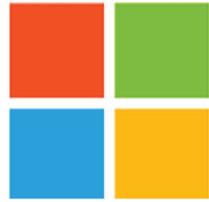
The city is embarking on an effort to reduce and eliminate pesticides that pose health and environmental risks.

Over the next year, the city's Integrated Pest Management Committee will devise policies to ensure that spraying of vegetation on city property will be done in an

environmentally sensitive manner.

One of the policy goals is to encourage residents to use alternatives to pesticide. If you or your community group would like to learn more, contact Lisa Werre at lwerre@sammamish.us or 425-295-0573.

Thank you to our 2017 summer event sponsors!



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PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



MudBay
FOR HEALTHY DOGS AND CATS



Cascade Team
REAL ESTATE



Kiwanis
Kiwanis Club of Sammamish



CITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 8, 9, 10

-Trail Work, Beaver Lake Preserve
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

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

Wednesday, Sept. 13

-Human Services Task Force, 1:30 p.m.
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Youth Board, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16

-Children's Walk, Big Rock Park
10 a.m. - noon
-Bollywood Dance Event, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

-City Council Regular Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 21

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

Saturday, Sept. 23

-Sammamish Arts Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
-Volunteer at Evans Creek Preserve,
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 24

-Sammamish Arts Fair,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 25

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

OCTOBER

Monday, Oct. 2

-City Council Study Session,
4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

-City Council Regular Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4

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

Thursday, Oct. 5

-Finance Committee Mtg, 9:30 a.m.
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7

-Walk at Soaring Eagle, 10 a.m.- noon

Tuesday, Oct. 10

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

Wednesday, Oct. 11

-Human Services Task Force, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

-City Council Regular Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

-Youth Board,
6 p.m.
-Utility Dist. Coordination Cmte Mtg at
N.E. Sammamish Sewer & Water Dist,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19

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

Monday, Oct. 23

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

Tuesday, Oct. 31

-Halloween Happening,
3 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.

11th Annual Sammamish ARTS Fair

fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE



September 23rd & 24th, 2017
www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

To eliminate lines and wait times, Passport Applications

are now by appointment only
at Sammamish City Hall,
801 228th Ave. S.E.

To make an appointment, go to
www.sammamish.us

and select the
"How Do I?" tab.

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Councilmember*

Sammamish Arts Commission presents:

Bollywood Dance

Pine Lake Covenant Church - 1715 228th Ave. S.E.



7-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16
(Includes a one-hour learning lesson, 7-8 p.m.)

Registration required at:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3064099>

Food available for purchase!

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Karen Porterfield	Admin Services Director
Steve Leniszewski	Public Works Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Michelle Bennett	Police Chief
Jeff Clark	Fire Chief

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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