

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 46

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

Park your car, ride the bus

New Park-and-Ride opens on 228th

With 265 inviting spaces, Sound Transit's new park-and-ride at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road was designed to siphon congestion off city and regional roads.

Together with the recently opened 1,000-stall park-and-ride at Issaquah Highlands, the new spaces offer a welcome alternative to the "tail-light tango" that plagues commuters who drive themselves to work.

"The new park-and-ride lots, along with increased bus service, better city roads, and regional transportation improvements are all part of meeting the challenge," City Manager Ben

See PARK-and-RIDE, pg. 2



King County Executive Ron Sims addresses trail enthusiasts at the opening ceremonies for the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

The trail attracts a crowd

Sammamish section finally opens

The big crowd was long and narrow, just like the gravel path everyone was standing on to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

But the breadth of support evident at the March 21 ceremony was impressive.

King County Executive Ron Sims presided over the big moment, with city officials, trail supporters, and county staffers joining in the celebratory remarks.

"Where's the champagne?" Sammamish Mayor Michele Petitti asked with a laugh, suggesting that the trail mix snacks provided by the county might not measure up to the moment.

The opening of the county trail marked the end of a long struggle. Although trail supporters have envisioned a walking trail along the old Burlington Northern rail bed for decades, the dream passed through the

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With all our recent focus on the Town Center planning, I was fascinated to learn that we have almost 2,000 businesses with licenses in Sammamish. Wow!

I asked our city clerk to provide me with the list to scrutinize. I selected



Mayor
Michele Petitti

some random businesses to interview and learn more.

I have been noodling in the back of my head for an identity idea or association for our city – you know, like our neighboring cities: Redmond and Bicycles, Woodinville and Wine, Issaquah and Salmon.

How about Sammamish and Entrepreneurs???

The A to Z business license list is interesting to go through and guess what type of business goes with the name. It's not necessarily what one would expect. It was easy to identify the pet sitters, jewelry makers and home repair or construction businesses, but when I called "Ask Susanne," I was ex-

pecting some type of miss manners or etiquette business. It turned out to be a home decorating/sewing business.

"A Cook's Tour" turned out to be a very polished and professional tour business with lots of trip offerings going to Italy, France, Mexico and South Africa. Their website was alluring, featuring all-inclusive escorted tours to learn about local cuisine and culture by meeting and cooking with chefs.

"Five Star Fragrances" is a garage potpourri/sachet business with international legs to The Ritz and Four Seasons hotels. The owner, Mary Lou Soleim, hopes to get her teenage daughters interested in growing this business.

Did you know we have a "Sammamish Yacht Club"? This tongue-in-cheek business (because there are no yachts on the lake or even a club house) actually has 60 families as members and also has a website to coordinate social events and classes. The business began as a way for the Bonde family to teach their son, William, about starting a business and to learn boating safety.

A call to "Poetic Planning" was

answered by a machine with this recorded message: "If it's Sunday, I am in Church, if it is Tuesday, I am at line dancing class, and if it's Patrick, I love you!" Well, that was planning and poetry all in one swoop.

A call to "Mitchell Quinn Group" revealed Margaret Quinn, a retired bank executive and sole proprietor of a marketing strategies consulting company. We had an educational chat and Ms. Quinn provided me with these statistics: 98% of the businesses in the US are considered micro businesses (under \$50,000 in annual revenue). A small business is defined as having \$50,000 to \$500,000 in annual revenues. Margaret noted all the stay-at-home moms in Sammamish and figured they were all busy with something else to bring stimulation and connection beyond child rearing.

So, we are, indeed, a community of entrepreneurs! I hope we will be able to keep and grow more businesses in Sammamish.

PARK-and-RIDE, cont. from pg. 1

Yazici said. "We'll keep working hard, locally and regionally, on traffic congestion problems that affect our residents."

The \$7.7 million project, which Sound Transit built in partnership with King County Metro and the City of Sammamish, opened for business on March 20 following a ceremony emceed by King County Executive Ron Sims.

King County Metro will operate and maintain the facility, offering bus service on routes 216, 269, and 927. Information on bus service at the new park-and-ride is available at the Metro Online website: transit.metrokc.gov.



City and Sound Transit officials, from the left: Councilmember Jack Barry, Sound Transit Board members Mary-Alice Burleigh and Fred Butler, Mayor Michele Petitti and Councilmember Don Gerend.

City thanks Reichert and Rodne

According to City Manager Ben Yazici, positive, productive relationships with legislators at both state and federal levels are extremely important. Fortunately, of late, the city has benefited greatly from the hard work of two legislators representing Sammamish residents.

“Congressman Dave Reichert and State Representative Jay Rodne have really come through for us,” Yazici said. “We can’t thank them enough.”



Mayor Michele Petitti thanks Congressman Dave Reichert for his help with the Parkway.

To express its gratitude to Reichert for \$750,000 in federal funding he obtained for the East Lake Sammamish Parkway project, the City Council honored him at the March 21 council meeting.

“We met with him in D.C. a few months ago,” Yazici said. “He was extremely responsive and helpful to us.”

Another helpful hand has come from 5th District State Representative Jay Rodne, who worked very hard on the passage of legislation which gives cities more options for contract court services. Although the city contracts with King County for those services, Sammamish has long pushed for alternatives which would put the city in a stronger bargaining position.

“We’ve been down to Olympia several times to talk to our representatives about this legislation,” Yazici said. “Jay really took our concerns seriously and sponsored a bill that, in the long run, will help us get excellent court services at a reasonable cost. He’s done a great job of representing our residents.”



*Rep. Jay Rodne
Washington 5th District*

Planning proceeds for Town Center

As it moves through the early stages of planning for a future Town Center, the city is continuing to rely on residents to provide a broad spectrum of community perspectives.

On March 28, the city held an open house featuring sketches of how the Town Center might look. Residents were also asked to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared for the plan.

A few days before that, on March

23, the Sammamish Town Center Committee held its first meeting. The committee, comprised of seven residents and representatives from both the Planning and Parks Commissions, will review draft products and provide input to city staff and consultants.

On March 9, the city also held a forum for people who own property inside the proposed Town Center area, approximately 240 acres in the geographical center of the city. Another property

owner meeting is anticipated for May 11.

The goal is to create a Town Center with a mixture of public gathering places, diverse housing options, commercial activities and open space – all consistent with the adopted City Council vision statement. More information is available on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) or by contacting Cristina Van Valkenburgh at cvanvalkenburgh@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-836-7971.



Deputy Mayor Mark Cross celebrates the moment.



A family goes for a test drive after the ribbon cutting.

TRAIL - cont. from pg. 1

hands of many a lawyer, judge and hearing examiner before becoming a reality.

The legal battle pitted the county against a number of trailside residents who said the trail route was intrusive, unsafe and environmentally flawed. After most of the court decisions went the county's way, the residents finally ended their legal battle last year, opening the way for construction last summer.

The 11-mile recreational trail runs from Redmond to Issaquah, with seven miles inside Sammamish. The trail segments in Redmond and Issaquah opened in 2004. King County refers to the gravel pathway as the "interim" trail

because a more elaborate paved trail is planned for the future. It's unclear when that paved "master plan" trail will begin construction, although many observers say it's still several years away.

King County purchased the railroad right-of-way for \$2.9 million in 1998 from what is now known as the Cascade Land Conservancy. The land conservancy bought the right-of-way from Burlington Northern in 1997 for \$1.5 million.

Although the Sammamish segment of the trail didn't open until March 21, some residents had been using the pathway before the official ceremony. Most reports received by the city indicate the vast majority of trail users have

See TRAIL, pg. 5



Two trail enthusiasts obey the leash law.



Mayor Michele Petitti (center) talks with other officials.

TRAIL, cont. from pg. 4

followed the rules and been polite, but there have been several complaints regarding unleashed dogs, pet waste on private yards, after hours use, and people exiting the trail across private property.

Although the city has posted “No Trail Access” signs at the top of driveways that cross private property between East Lake Sammamish Parkway and the trail, there are no similar signs along the trail itself.

“People who want to exit the trail and go up to the Parkway may get confused about which driveways cross private property and which ones don’t,” the city’s Tim Larson said. “We may suggest to the county that they put ‘no exit’ signs in certain spots along their trail.”

The city is responsible for signs along the Parkway, which is in the city’s right-of-way. The county is responsible for signs along their trail right-of-way.

The map to the right shows the five access points recommended by the county. They are:

- 187th Avenue Northeast
- Kokomo Place
(just north of Inglewood Hill Road)
- East Lake Sammamish Shore Lane N.E.
(350 yards north of Thompson Hill Road)
- Southeast Eighth Street
- Southeast 33rd Street

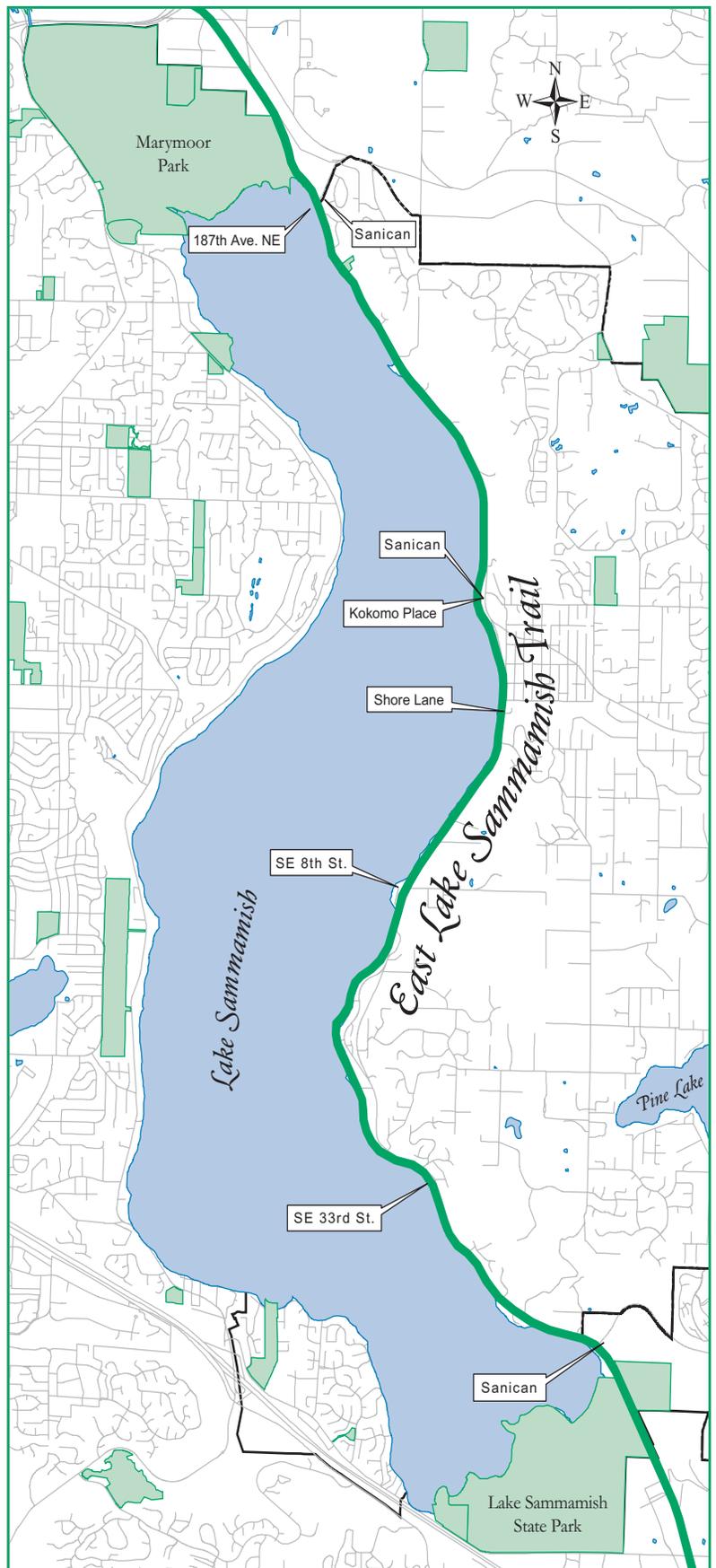
“The county is on a shakedown cruise right now,” Larson said. “We’ll be monitoring things and helping where we can.”

“Our best advice is to follow the county’s posted rules,” he said, “and take advantage of all the pet waste bags and trash cans they’ve placed along the trail. Based on the calls we get at City Hall, picking up after your dog should be rule number one.”

“Remembering that the trail closes at dusk should be a close second.”

Residents with concerns about the trail should contact King County’s Mike Lozano at 206-296-4240 or mike.lozano@metrokc.gov. They can also contact Robert Nunnenkamp at 206-263-6207 or robert.nunnenkamp@metrokc.gov.

Those who want to speak with the city should contact Tim Larson at 425-836-7905 or tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



East Lake Sammamish Trail

Tax help on city website

Since Washington taxpayers do not have a state income tax, they are allowed to claim a deduction for sales taxes.

There are two components of the sales tax deduction:

1. State component, same for everyone in the state of Washington;
2. Local component which varies depending on address.

The state of Washington provides an online tool to help residents determine the amount of sales tax they can deduct from their 2005 income tax returns.

To access that tool, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us. Click on Departments > Financial Services, and scroll down to Financial Links. Then click on "Federal Tax Return State/Local Sales Tax Lookup Tool".

2006 Sammi Awards described as "best ever"

In recognition of community spirited residents, the 5th Annual Sammi Awards were handed out at Eastlake High School on March 18.

Sponsored by local businesses and the City of Sammamish, the Sammi Awards celebration has become a yearly highlight in the community.

In front of a large and appreciative crowd, the awards were bestowed in nine categories.

The awardees were:

Arts - Lynnea Washburn

Business - Michael Schweitzer

Courage - Ann and David Bahm

Learning Promotion - Kim Villeneuve

Teen Challenge - Josh Pelonio

Trevor Price Award - Joelle Klein

Unsung Hero - Janene St. James

Youth Advocate - Cherry O'Neill

Spirit of Sammamish - Jan Bromberg



Jan Bromberg (center) holds Spirit of Sammamish Award, joined by Mary Trask and Brennon Gomm.

Recycling day



Residents dispose of petroleum products March 25 at Eastlake High School during spring recycling day. Last year, 310,000 pounds of material were collected at city-sponsored recycling events.

Capture water with bargain rain barrels

To encourage more efficient use of water, the city of Sammamish is offering rain barrels to residents at a huge discount. The rain barrels normally retail for about \$120, but, thanks to funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, Sammamish residents will pay only \$25.

The recycled plastic Raincatcher holds up to 55 gallons of water collected through a home's downspouts. The downspout can be shortened to allow water to flow into the top of the container, or downspout adapters can be purchased at home improvement stores. A spigot allows the connection of a hose to fill watering cans.

Order forms are available at City Hall, 486 228th Ave. N.E. Forms can also be obtained on the city website (www.sammamish.wa.us). For more information, please call Laura Tawney at 425-836-7916.

City's first police chief retires

Dick Baranzini, the city's gregarious and popular police chief, turned in his badge on March 31. Baranzini was appointed chief in 1999, when the city contracted with the King County Sheriff's Department for police services. Including his six years in Sammamish, Baranzini is retiring after 33 years with the Sheriff's Department.

"Being the Chief in Sammamish is the best assignment I've ever had," Baranzini said. "The people in the community and in city government have been wonderful here."

As he watches his police chief head off to Arizona, City Manager Ben Yazici wishes him well.

"He's done a great job for us," Yazici said. "We'll miss him both professionally and personally."

Baranzini emphasized a community-oriented, problem-solving approach that often led to positive interactions with residents. As an example, he pointed to the "vacation house check" program. After his officers watched a home, Baranzini would call the owners upon their return and give them a report.

"I think people liked getting a call from the chief," Baranzini said. "It's not the sort of treatment you would get in a big city."

King County Sheriff Sue Rahr and Con-

gressman Dave Reichert (former King County Sheriff) were both present at a March 21 retirement ceremony in the council chambers. After they hinted they might tell some embarrassing stories about the chief's history with the Sheriff's Department, Baranzini got the upper hand, and a laugh, by saying: "Don't forget. I've got some stories too."



Police Chief Dick Baranzini accepts his retirement plaque at the March 21 City Council meeting as King County Sheriff Sue Rahr and Congressman Dave Reichert applaud.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

APRIL

Monday, Apr 3, 2006

Neighborhood Connections Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, Apr 4, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, Apr 6, 2006

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Apr 11, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, Apr 17, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Apr 18, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, Apr 19, 2006

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 8 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, Apr 20, 2006

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, Apr 24, 2006

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, Apr 27, 2006

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Sammamish Library

MAY

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, May 15, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 8 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, May 22, 2006

Parks and Recreation Commission Mtg., 6:30 - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Sammamish Library

NOTE: Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 228th Avenue NE.



*Michele Petitti
Mayor*



*Mark Cross
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

City Council meetings on Sammamish 21 Television

If you'd like to keep up with your elected officials, the city's cable channel is "must-see TV." Sammamish 21 TV carries the council meetings four times a day – typically at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 7 p.m. and 1 a.m.

The twice-monthly regular council meetings are aired on a tape-delayed basis. The sessions are videotaped Tuesday, prepared for air, and then put on TV for the first time at 7 p.m. the following Friday.

Residents served by Comcast Cable can see the city's programming on channel 21.

Millenium Cable customers can watch Sammamish 21 TV on channel 61.

In addition to City Council meetings, the city's channel carries Lake Washington School Board meetings, interviews with the City Manager, and a variety of other government video offerings.



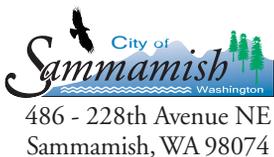
A full listing of Sammamish 21 TV programs can be found by going to the Sammamish website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on "TV 21" on the left side of the home page. The TV 21 page also features a small, streamed version of the city's television programming.

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Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber	Public Works Director
Kamuron Guroi	Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard	Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Svcs Director
Steve Hartwig	City Engineer
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Richard Baranzini	Police Chief
John Murphy	Fire Chief
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



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