



# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 62

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

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## Forums fuel Town Center planning effort

Four times this summer the city brought residents and experts together at public forums to discuss vitally important priorities in the Town Center planning effort.

Four of those priorities, highlighted by the City Council when it adopted a preferred alternative in April, were:

- Affordable housing
- Environment and sustainability
- Civic facilities
- Design guidelines

The most recent forum, on July 24, tackled design guidelines the city will use to make sure the new Town Center develops in a pleasing, well-integrated manner.

“These guidelines will help our development partners produce the

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Hartman Photography, Sammamish, WA

## Planning for the next “Fourth on the Plateau”

The pyrotechnics lasted only 25 minutes, but the flow of compliments for the city’s first Fourth of July celebration persisted for days after the event.

“I was really, really pleased with how many nice emails and comments the city received,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The staff was really elated by the community’s reaction.”

The “Fourth on the Plateau” crowd was estimated at 12,000, although some observers say that figure is too conservative. Before the late-evening fireworks at Sammamish Commons, residents also enjoyed live music, hot dogs, ice cream, pizza, face paint-

ing, balloon art, play features for the kids, and glorious summer weather.

Director of Administrative Services Mike Sauerwein, who guided the city’s Independence Day efforts, is already making plans for 2008.

“Although this year came off better than any first-time effort probably ought to, we did learn some valuable lessons,” Sauerwein said. “We need more porta-potties, better communication between the plaza and the lower park area, and shorter food lines, among other things.

“Our planning for next year is

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Mark Cross  
Mayor

This fall, a key transportation project containing many safety improvements will come to the City Council for review. It's the improvement of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway from

Inglewood Hill Road up to the northern city limits. The intersection at Inglewood Hill Road will also be improved.

Over the years, this section of the parkway has produced many accidents. Between 1999 and 2003, for example, there were 81 collisions along this roadway segment. The intersection at Inglewood Hill Road alone produced 27 of those collisions.

As traffic volumes have increased, residents using Kokomo Place, 16th Ave NE., and other side streets have had a difficult time accessing the parkway in a

safe manner. Bicyclists have had to pull into the travel lanes when parked cars have blocked the shoulders. And does anyone want to be a pedestrian along the Parkway? There are no sidewalks on either side.

The goal is simple: improve safety for commuters in their cars and on their bikes, and for pedestrians moving across or along the parkway. And while we're at it, the parkway should receive much needed water quality and storm drainage improvements. Dumping oil-laden storm water off of the parkway into the lake without treatment is no longer acceptable, especially with the knowledge we now have about impacts to fish and wildlife.

Questions about the proposed parkway design are welcome. Should there be a center turn lane along all or just parts of the parkway? How do we establish bike lanes that are just for bikes and don't double as parking spaces?

Can we fit a sidewalk into this street so that kids can wait for and catch the bus at the safest locations? Should there be two left-turn lanes for cars turning up the hill at Inglewood Hill Road? All of these are good questions.

Before the council sees it in the fall, the public will have a chance to review the Design Report on the parkway. We hope you will take a look and provide your best ideas and recommendations. We need to choose carefully because the design choices we make this year will set the direction for other improvements along the parkway in the years ahead.

But once the choices are made, we must not delay. The safety of our community, and our environment, require prompt action.

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quality and look the community wants," Project Manager Michael Matthias said. "The council has asked for a reasonable degree of flexibility in these guidelines so they don't put developers in a straight-jacket, but will still support the environmental, housing, commercial and civic element goals of the preferred alternative."

The first public forum, back on June 14, explored strategies for affordable housing – the creation of residential units affordable to families at the 80th percentile of King County's median income, or below.

"We had both non-profit and for-profit developers sharing their successes in other communities," Matthias said. "They showed us examples of attractive units that blended really well with market rate units.

"The council wants affordable housing so teachers, police officers and other employees who are vital to the health of our community can actually live in Sammamish."

On June 26, the forum focused on ways to protect and sustain the environment as the Town Center develops. Discussion touched on low-impact development, "green" building techniques, and the preservation of wetlands, streams, wildlife corridors and open space.

"The goal is to really explore the possibilities, and by doing so, create a positive model that will help developers follow suit throughout the community," Matthias said.

Civic facilities, and their importance to the cultural, educational and recreational development of the community, were discussed at the July 12 forum.

Moderated by Parks and Recreation Director Jessi Richardson, this meeting explored a broad range of possibilities that included a community, aquatic, and performing arts center, among others.

"The community needs to give this topic a lot of thought," Richardson said. "How these civic facilities get funded, where they're located, and who the city partners with are important considerations."

With the feedback obtained at the four public forums – from both residents and expert panelists – the city staff and its team of consultants will continue to work on a draft Town Center plan that is scheduled for presentation to the Planning Commission in September.

More information on the Town Center process is available on the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

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addressing those issues and others, so we're hoping next year will be even better."

Much of the heavy lifting this year was done by Bold Hat Productions, a company that helps put on special events. But in the years ahead, the city hopes to take on more of the burden.

"We had tremendous contributions from sponsors and volunteers this year, but with the knowledge we gain each time, I think this is going to become even more of a grass-roots, community effort every year."

Those with suggestions for improving the event, or an interest in becoming a sponsor or volunteer, are invited to go to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/News.aspx?ID=604](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/News.aspx?ID=604).

"We welcome all feedback, and look forward to working with everyone again next year," Sauerwein said.



*Moving into position for the fireworks.*



Hartman Photography, Sammamish, WA

*Balloons and face paint at Sammamish Commons.*



*Fourth on the Plateau spirit.*

## Art enlivens City Hall



*Through mid-September, the entryway at City Hall will feature the work of local artists from Sammamish, Redmond and Issaquah.*

Thanks to the hard work of the Sammamish Arts Commission, more than 30 pieces of art now hang on the entryway walls of City Hall, adding texture and color to the civic experience of residents and city staffers alike.

“It’s really brightened up the place,” said City Manager Ben Yazici. “The Arts Commission has done a great job.”

The exhibit, a variety of pieces from 10 area artists, is entitled “Demographic Tapestry: Strands of our Culture.”

The exhibit will be in place through mid-September. For more information on the Arts Commission, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on “Advisory Boards.”

## Sammamish 11th best place to live

According to Money Magazine, Sammamish is one of the best small towns in the country. In fact, Sammamish came in at number 11 on a list of 100 “best places to live.” Featured on a list that focused on small-town America, Sammamish was praised for safe streets, excellent schools and a “real sense of community.”

“We didn’t know this was coming, but we’re pleased that our town rated so highly,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s quite an accomplishment for a community that decided to incorporate just eight years ago.”

The recognition from Money Magazine triggered considerable interest from the local media.

“It was nice to answer questions about what makes Sammamish a good place to live,” Yazici said. “I think it’s a combination of things -- our natural setting, a family-friendly environment, and the hard work our City Council and community have put in to roads, parks, ball fields and other much-needed infrastructure.”



*Residential scene in Sammamish.*

## Another ribbon cut along 228th Avenue

It's a welcome sight along the northern reaches of 228th Avenue – a bright new sidewalk on the western edge of the city's main arterial.

But it's a lot more than that.

"We also added a southbound bike lane, curb and gutter, a planter strip and an enclosed drainage system on that side of the road," Public Works Director John Cunningham said. "The planter strip will be landscaped this fall when the weather cools off."

The project also widened the roadway slightly in selected places and installed turn pockets at NE 14th Drive and NE 19th Drive. Although there are no immediate plans for improvements on the east side of the road, the new features were designed to match what will eventually go in on the other side. Stretching three-quarters of a mile between NE 12th Place and NE 25th Way, the project cost came in at \$2.9 million.

Some related work, under separate con-



*Cutting the ribbon (from left) are Councilmembers Don Gerend, Michele Petitti, and Nancy Whitten, Deputy Mayor Lee Felling, Project Manager Jeff Brauns, and Councilmember Jack Barry.*

tracts, is planned for this summer. A 400-foot asphalt walkway at the northern end of the project will be replaced by a concrete sidewalk, and a new overlay of pavement will be put down on the roadway.

Councilmembers and project manager Jeff Brauns participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the project on July 10.

## Want to volunteer? Come to the fair...

If you've always wanted to do volunteer work but just haven't been able to find the right niche, a city-sponsored Volunteer Fair may provide the opportunity you've been looking for.

The fair, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E., will feature approximately 20 Sammamish non-profit organizations that may have volunteer opportunities perfectly suited to your talents. The city's volunteer coordinator, Dawn Sanders, will also be present to discuss opportunities to volunteer with the city.

If your local non-profit would like to be included in this event, please contact Sanders at 425-295-0556 or [dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us). The Volunteer Fair will be held in conjunction with the Annual Safety Fair, an event sponsored by the Sammamish Citizens Corps Council and Eastside Fire and Rescue.

## Here's to you.....all volunteers, past and present.....

Wednesday, Aug. 22, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. – that's the date and time you need to save if you're a city volunteer and want to scoop up some heartfelt appreciation from your friends at City Hall.

That appreciation, in the form of ice cream cones and sundaes, will be offered up by city staff to show how much Sammamish appreciates the time and effort you've put in to make our city a better place.

Even if it's been a while since you volunteered with the city, please come by and meet your fellow volunteers, enjoy a cool summer treat, and accept our thanks for helping out.



## Project Updates:

More information available online at:  
[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and  
[www.sammplat.wa.org](http://www.sammplat.wa.org)



**244th Avenue:** This project will improve 244th Avenue between Southeast Eighth Street and Northeast 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](mailto:jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0563.

**East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE:** The City issued a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document in June. A fourth public open house, held on June 20, was attended by over 50 residents. The design team is currently completing the Design Report and 30% plans for a presentation to City Council this fall. That report will be available for public review before the presentation to City Council. This project, stretching from NE Inglewood Hill Road to

the northern city limits, is scheduled to begin construction in 2009, after the SR 202 widening improvements are completed. Key features of the \$41 million, multiple-stage project include widening the roadway to three lanes to add either a center turn lane or landscaped median, bike lanes, and a sidewalk on only the east side. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto: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 Ave. S.E. and 224th Ave. S.E., along S.E. 32nd St., 216th Ave. S.E., S.E. 28th St., 222nd Place S.E., and S.E. 30th St. 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 September 2007. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at [jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0563.

**Pine Lake Transit Access Road:** This \$3.3 million project was completed in June. Left turns are permanently prohibited from SE 29th St to 228th Ave SE, from northbound 228th Ave SE to SE 29th St, and from Pine Lake Village to 228th Ave SE. These changes are being made to address a high number of accidents at this location. Access to businesses located along SE 29th St is possible by using the new SE Pine Lake Rd and turning right (heading north) at 224th Ave SE (the first right turn). A map showing this new route is available at the project webpage. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0561.

**212th Ave. SE Sidewalk:** This project will construct a sidewalk along the west side of 212th Ave. SE in the vicinity of SE 13th Place and close the existing gap between SE 14th St. and Ebright Creek Park. The budget for the design and construction of these improvements is \$500,000. Construction is scheduled for late 2007/early 2008. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0561.

## Issaquah delays roundabout project

Due to complications in the contract bidding process, construction of a roundabout at the intersection of S.E. 43rd Way and East Lake Sammamish Parkway has been delayed by the city of Issaquah.

For more information, please go to [www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=1337](http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=1337).

## Hazardous waste event

Do you have old containers of oil, paint and pesticides in your garage? How about used fluorescent light bulbs and car batteries? If you're looking for a chance to safely discard these and other hazardous waste items, go to Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17, through Sunday, Aug. 19.

For more information on this hazardous waste collection event, go to [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/disposal](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/disposal) or call 206-296-4692.

# A Concert in the Park equals fun!

The Summer Nights in the Park series is now more than halfway through its schedule of eight concerts. Freddy Pink played to a lively crowd on July 26, and at press time Locust Street Taxi was due to take the stage on Aug. 2, with 3D following on Aug. 9.

The Thursday evening concerts, now in their seventh year, are sponsored by Plateau Jewelers. On a typical concert night, Pine Lake Park opens up for picnicking at 5 p.m., with the music starting up at 6:30 p.m.

As in the past, the Wooden O Theater has also staged two Shakespeare plays at the park: "The Merry Wives of Windsor" on July 21 and "The Merchant of Venice" on July 28.

For a full look at the remaining attractions on the city's summer entertainment calendar, please turn to page 8.



*As the Freddy Pink band plays in the background, Sammamish residents test their limbo skills at Pine Lake Park on July 26.*

## City Hall Calendar

### August

#### Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007

*Camden Park Annexation Open House  
6-8 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Monday, Aug. 6, 2007

*Dutchie Hill Annexation Meeting  
5:30-7:30 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007

*Sammamish Police National Night Out  
Kick-Off Event, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.*

Sammamish Commons

#### Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007

*Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Monday, Aug. 20, 2007

*East Sammamish Park Mtg #3, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007

*Volunteer Open House, 3-6 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007

*Pine Lake Park Phase II Meeting #2,  
6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

### September

#### Monday, Sept. 3, 2007

*Labor Day*

City offices closed

#### Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007

*City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007

*Evans Creek Preserve Meeting #3, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007

*Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007

*City Council Study Session, 6:30-10 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007

*Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Monday, Sept. 17, 2007

*City Council Study Session, 6:30-10 p.m.*

City Hall

*Arts Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007

*City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007

City Hall

#### Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

*Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

City Hall

#### Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

*Sammamish Youth Board Meeting, 6-7 p.m.*

Sammamish Library

# 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



## Concerts:

August 16  
Nathan Chance

August 23  
Sammamish Symphony

August 30  
Andy O

• 6:30 p.m. at Pine Lake Park

## “Kids First” Noontime Series

August 21  
Charlie Williams  
“The Noise Guy”

• Noon at Beaver Lake Lodge

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Pete Butkus Deputy City Manager  
Lyman Howard Finance Dir/Ass't City Mgr  
John Cunningham Public Works Director  
Kamuron Guro 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  
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Tim Larson Communications Manager



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