

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 86

CITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

## *10th Birthday Edition*

# As first decade comes to a close, city named 12th “best place” to live

## **MONEY MAGAZINE NAMES SAMMAMISH TO ELITE LIST**

The city’s 10th birthday party on Aug. 29 was always going to be festive, with music, cake, a kids’ parade and the burial of a time capsule on the agenda, but now, thanks to Money Magazine, some serious backpatting will also be in order.

“The residents and the City Council should be very proud,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Out of the 100 ‘best places to live’ in the entire country, Sammamish has been ranked number 12.

“Considering that residents incorporated just 10 years ago, and we were inundated with growth at the time, that’s a heck of an accomplishment.”

Money Magazine screened cities on the basis of school quality, crime rate, job environment, and range of recreational opportunities, among other things. Sammamish scored well in nearly all categories, except for the affordability of housing.

*See 10TH BIRTHDAY, Page 3*



*One of the highlights of the city’s birthday celebration on Aug. 29 will be the burial of a 40-year time capsule. Here, three Sammamish youngsters record a video message to the future that will go into the time capsule.*

**MAYOR’S MESSAGE**  
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**CITY, BEFORE AND AFTER**  
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**SHORELINE MEETING**  
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## Sammamish at Ten!

Fellow citizens – we are now ten years old. The seed of our new city was planted when the State Growth Management Act was passed in 1990, and



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

the Urban Growth Boundary was drawn along our eastern perimeter. Higher density zoning was dictated within the Urban Growth Boundary, and subdivisions were vested by King County at an alarming rate.

After an attempt to annex to Issaquah failed, followed by an incorporation referendum that also failed, the vote to incorporate finally passed in 1998. Born out of a desire to gain more local control of this beautiful community, Sammamish, the newest city in western Washington, incorporated in August of 1999, and has had an exciting ten years of maturation.

The initial City Council in 1999 realized that growth was outstripping the needed infrastructure, so a moratorium on new subdivisions was passed to give the city some time to catch up. The moratorium stayed in place for seven years, and after it was removed growth continued at a more manageable rate.

During that time, 228th Avenue was converted from a county road into our signature boulevard. Many miles of sidewalks and trails were constructed, roundabouts and traffic signals were installed, and, by raising our voices at the regional and state levels, we saw Redmond-Fall City Road rebuilt with a flyover ramp at State Route 520. We have also seen a South Sammamish Park and Ride lot built, and expanded bus service to our community.

After inheriting just 40 acres of parks upon incorporation, Sammamish has acquired (through donation, purchases and development) an additional 420 acres of active and passive park land. Parks, new ball fields, and a skateboard facility have been constructed, and improvements have been made to existing recreational amenities. We also have a beautiful citizens' City Hall, with a new library soon to be completed right next door.

The challenge for the City Council, staff and community at large has been to create a whole out of many disparate elements, and to make sure that Sammamish adds up to more than the sum of its parts.

It must also have a sense of place, both physically and on a people-to-people scale. Recognizing this, we have all been working together to make this happen.

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*So, fellow citizens of Sammamish, as Robert Browning wrote, "grow old along with me, the best is yet to be".*

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Individual citizens and service organizations have given us community binding events such as the SAMMI awards, the Nightmare at Beaver Lake, the Beaver Lake Triathlon, the Challenge Race, and all of the wonderful sports groups providing opportunities for our children to compete and interact.

There is also the Sammamish Symphony, Sammamish Youth Board, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), the Heritage Society, a Ham radio group and even an amateur

astronomy group, just to name a few.

The City has actively supported other community-building events such as Teen Fest, Farmers' Market, Fourth on the Plateau and the concerts and Shakespeare events at Pine Lake Park.

The various service organizations, church groups and scouting organizations have also done their parts to help make Sammamish a truly great place to live.

And, we have not gone unnoticed. For the second time Money Magazine has recognized Sammamish as one of the dozen "best places to live" among cities of 50,000 residents or less in the United States.

Of course, there is still much to do to elevate our "family-friendly, kid-safe" community to new heights.

The Town Center planned for the geographical midpoint of Sammamish is envisioned as a mixed-use focal point, with lots of "live, work, shop and play" dimensions. The hope is that sustainable approaches to urban life, with appropriate attention paid to the latest environmental, social and technological trends, will flourish in the Town Center.

There is also still a teen center to create, or a more ambitious all-encompassing community center that might contain features like a senior center, recording studio, computer lab, swimming pool, indoor soccer field and tennis facility.

So, fellow citizens of Sammamish, as Robert Browning wrote, "grow old along with me, the best is yet to be".

I hope to see you all at the City Hall Plaza on August 29 to celebrate our first ten years, and to contemplate our next 100. It's going to be exciting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

## 10TH BIRTHDAY, cont. from pg. 1

“This recognition is a nice birthday present as we hit the 10-year mark,” Yazici said. “I look forward to seeing a lot of people at the party on Aug. 29.”

The festivities will begin at 10 a.m., when a Kids’ Parade will wend its way along 228th Avenue from Mary Queen of Peace Church to City Hall Plaza, where live entertainment, cake and punch, kids’ activities, an art display and food vendors will await.

The time capsule ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Among other things, the capsule will contain video messages to the future from current residents. Those messages will be heard when the time capsule is opened in 2049. Winners of the art, essay and math competitions will also receive recognition as the party rolls along through the afternoon.

The 10th birthday event will wrap up that evening when the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce hosts “Sammamish Nights – Smooth Jazz Under the Stars” at City Hall. This is a ticketed event for adults only, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Chris Elliott Fund for Glioblastoma Brain Cancer research.

“This is one of the other reasons our community ranks so high,” Yazici said. “Our residents take a hand in helping each other, funding important initiatives, and contributing to an ever increasing sense of community.”

“You can see it at the Sammi Awards, the Fourth on the Plateau, and the many small kindnesses that take place every day. Our growing sense of community is something else we can celebrate on Aug. 29.”

For more information on the city’s tenth birthday event, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click next to the big “10.” For more on Money Magazine’s city rankings, go to <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/money-mag/bplive/2009/>.

# Kids’ Parade



## Saturday, Aug. 29, 10:00am

Pre-registration required.

\$5 per individual; \$50 for groups of up to 25 kids.

Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click by the big “10” to register.

## 10th Birthday Schedule:

(All events at Sammamish Commons, 801 228th Ave. S.E.)

10 a.m. – Kids’ Parade

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Music, food, kids’ activities

1 p.m. – Time Capsule Ceremony

6 p.m. – Food and Wine Event

(Ticketed, adults-only event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.)

For more information, go to [www.sammamishchamber.org](http://www.sammamishchamber.org).

## Thanks, birthday event sponsors!



### LOCHNER



## City's "before and after" pictures reveal steady investment in infrastructure.

Better roads and parks, more ball fields, greater care for the environment – these are all ways to measure the benefits of self-governance over the past 10 years. But it's also illuminating to simply put it into dollars and cents.

Before incorporation, King County invested approximately \$1 million per year in Sammamish plateau infrastructure. Since incorporation in 1999, the city has invested \$10 -12 million per year.

"The community's decision to pursue cityhood has paid enormous dividends," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We've kept our tax dollars at home instead of seeing them dispersed throughout King County. We've been able to build many of the things the community was asking for."

The city's biggest investment so far – \$30 million – has been the creation of a major, north-south arterial along the 228th Avenue corridor, a three-mile project that extends roughly from the Safeway shopping center in the north to the QFC shopping center in the south.

Where there used to be a congested, two-lane county road, residents now find a four-lane boulevard with a median strip, turn pockets, planter strips, lighting, landscaping, and spacious sidewalks.

The desire to incorporate was also fueled by a deficit in parks, ball fields and other recreational infrastructure. In addition

to refurbishing Pine Lake Park and building Ebright Creek Park from scratch, the city has also partnered with local schools to dramatically increase field capacity. The two new Community Sports Fields, at Eastlake and Skyline High Schools, now provide a year around, day and night, artificial turf surface for soccer, lacrosse, baseball and a variety of other sports.

In terms of developing a "sense of place," the construction of Sammamish Commons, a park and civic complex in the geographical center of the city, has probably provided the biggest step forward. Residents now have a City Hall, police station, skate facility and expansive park as a community reference point. And now that a new, bigger library is under construction across the plaza from City Hall, the gravitational pull of the Commons is only going to grow stronger.

Ultimately, the Commons will also be a major part of the proposed Town Center. Twenty years from now, if the city successfully guides both public and private development, the Commons will be just one part of a flourishing, mixed-use core that features retail, office, recreational and residential space.

"It's been very satisfying to see our infrastructure grow," Yazici said. "Stormwater facilities, parks, ball fields, roads, and walkways to keep our children safe – they're all important. But there's still a lot to do. It will be fun to see what the community and City Council achieve over the next decade."

### Before



*Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School "before."*

### After



*Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School "after."*

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Before



*Ebright Creek Park "before."*

## After



*Ebright Creek Park "after."*



*Sammamish Commons "before."*



*Sammamish Commons "after."*



*228th Avenue "before."*



*228th Avenue "after."*

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Before



*S.E. 24th Street "before."*

## After



*S.E. 24th Street "after."*



*Old library*



*New library*



*"Before" sidewalk along N.E. 16th Street.*



*"After" sidewalk along N.E. 16th Street.*

## City leaders have set course

In the Council-City Manager form of government, the elected representatives of the people are responsible for understanding the community's "vision," and then creating the broad policy strokes that allow the community to attain that vision.

In Sammamish, that fundamental role has been filled by the 11 City Councilmembers pictured on the right. Phil Dyer, Ken Kilroy, Troy Romero, Ron Haworth, Jack Barry, Kathleen Huckabay and Don Gerend were elected to the original council a decade ago. Michele Petitti, Nancy Whitten, Lee Fellingge and Mark Cross have taken their seats more recently.

"In addition to the ten-fold increase in infrastructure investment, our councilmembers have set the course in some very fundamental ways," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Fifty years from now, Sammamish will still bear their imprint."

Asked to mention a few of the key issues the council has addressed, Yazici mentioned the following half-dozen:

**Managing growth** – "The City Council implemented a development moratorium that allowed the city to catch up on infrastructure and put a comprehensive plan in place to guide future growth. The moratorium lasted seven years, which put a lot of pressure on the council, but they didn't lift it until we had our rules and regulations in place. Given that the Sammamish plateau was being overwhelmed by growth in the late 90's, this was a key issue the City Council took head-on."

**Contract city** – "Our elected leaders have always wanted to keep the city lean and cost effective, so they decided early on to contract for major services

with other providers. Rather than start our own fire and police department, for example, they contracted with the King County Sheriff's Office and Eastside Fire and Rescue. This approach has provided good services and allowed the city staff to remain small."

**Fiscal responsibility** – "The city has subsidized capital expenditures for roads and parks, etc., by using money from the operations side, money that was available partly because we had a small staff. As a result the city has very little debt and was recently given an AAA bond rating, the highest awarded by Standard and Poors."

**Taxes** – "Even as they transformed the city, the City Council held the line on taxes. Sammamish residents pay a lower tax rate and get better services than their neighbors in unincorporated King County."

**Environment** – "Despite continuing growth in Sammamish, the water quality of city lakes and streams has remained stable. The City Council has also passed the Critical Areas Ordinance, a Low Impact Development incentive ordinance, and is working now on the Shoreline Master Program Update."

**Town Center** – "After a long and broad public process helped the City Council create a 'vision' for a future Town Center, an equally ambitious public process produced a Town Center Plan that was adopted in June. Twenty years from now, when people are shopping, living, working and recreating in a Town Center that really fits Sammamish's character, the importance of this long-term planning will be crystal clear."



*Phil Dyer  
1999-2002*



*Ken Kilroy  
1999-2004*



*Troy Romero  
1999-2003*



*Ron Haworth  
1999-2004*



*Jack Barry  
1999-present*



*Kathleen Huckabay  
1999-present*



*Don Gerend  
1999-present*



*Michele Petitti  
2002-present*



*Nancy Whitten  
2004-present*



*Lee Fellingge  
2004-present*



*Mark Cross  
2004-present*

# Sammamish City News

## Fabulous Fourth in Sammamish!

The city's third Independence Day celebration went off without a hitch on a sunny Fourth of July at Sammamish Commons last month. Based on the feedback the city has received, this latest "Fourth on the Plateau" was the biggest and best yet.

"We have no scientific crowd estimates, but people who've been at all three events say this was the biggest turnout we've had so far," said the city's Mike Sauerwein. "It's great to see this event thrive with the help of our volunteers, sponsors, and residents."

The city's first fireworks show took place back in 2007, shortly after the city passed an ordinance banning the private use of fireworks inside Sammamish. The patriotic celebration, easily the biggest annual event in the city, has grown and improved each year.

This year, with the new library being built next to the City Hall plaza, more of the crowd moved to the northwest quadrant of Sammamish Commons. Since that area offers convenient entry and exit for pedestrians off of Southeast



*The moon becomes part of the show.*

David Nadalin

Fourth Street, and the sloping lawn offers a comfortable viewing angle when the fireworks go off, the city will continue to encourage that pattern in the years ahead.

The city's Dawn Sanders, who was in charge of recruiting volunteers and sponsors, was very happy with the way the night went.

"It was great," Sanders said. "Our volunteers and residents, along with our public-spirited sponsors, have made the Fourth of July a true, grassroots community event."



*Thousands arrived early to get a perfect vantage point in the Lower Commons.*

David Nadalin

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

City Hall and Sammamish Commons Park

## FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!!

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## City recognized for performance measurement

The city's effort to improve its performance by measuring results has been recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) with the bestowal of a "Certificate of Achievement."

Sammamish received the award after meeting the following certificate criteria:

- Reporting of performance data to the public through budgets, newsletters, and information provided to elected officials.
- Making efforts to verify the data's reliability.
- Training staff in the principles of performance management.

ICMA says its mission is "to create excellence in local governance" by advancing professional management.

## Sustainable September

**SEPT. 2 EVENT WILL TEACH RESIDENTS HOW TO PROTECT PRECIOUS RESOURCES**

More than a dozen exhibitors will be on hand at City Hall early next month to talk about building backyard rain gardens, creating wildlife habitats, and remodeling with "green" building materials.

The "Sustainable September" event, scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2, 4-7 p.m., at City Hall, is sponsored by the city of Sammamish, the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, and the Farmers Market.

Those attending the "Sustainable September" event are invited to step outside and visit the aforementioned Farmers Market, which will be operating at the same time.

For more information on the event, contact Judy Petersen at [jepetersen@aol.com](mailto:jepetersen@aol.com).

## Numerous road projects create traffic delays

With around a dozen road projects under construction in Sammamish or nearby, the summer of 2009 will require a bit more patience than usual from the city's drivers.

"We have a few, and both Redmond and Issaquah have projects that will affect Sammamish residents," said Public Works Director John Cunningham, "so it's going to be busy."

Here's a list of some of those projects, and the anticipated traffic delay schedules:



*Drivers will see delays on the Parkway through October.*

**E. Lake Sammamish Parkway at Inglewood Hill Rd.** – Lane closures expected through October, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and after 9 a.m. on Saturdays. A full roadway closure is scheduled from 5 a.m. on Aug. 12 until 5 a.m. on Aug. 17. For more information, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP).

**S.E. 20th Street** – The water district is putting in a new sewer line between 228th Ave. and 212th Ave. Lane closures expected until mid-October, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

**Sahalee Way Overlay** – This August project will produce lane closures 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, and on some weekends.

**S.E. Eighth Street** – A new right-hand turn lane will be built so eastbound drivers can enter Skyline High School. Lane closures now through early September, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., weekdays.

**212th Ave. S.E.** – The road will be widened and improved just north of S.E. 20th St. Lane closures expected through August, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays.

**City of Redmond** – Redmond will make improvements to the E. Lake Sammamish Parkway just north of Sammamish city limits. Expect lane closures into October between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

**City of Issaquah** – Issaquah is constructing a roundabout at the bottom of S.E. 43rd Way. Expect lane closures through September anytime except 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.

## Info meeting set for latest shoreline draft

As work continues on the Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP), residents are being invited to an informational meeting with city staff and consultants. The meeting, on Monday, Aug. 17, 5-7 p.m., will be held at City Hall. It will focus on the latest draft of the SMP update.

Per state law, the SMP is a regulatory document governing shorelines that the city must update on a periodic basis. The process has generated intense interest, especially among shoreline property owners who are concerned the update may affect what they can do with their land.

After the City Council adopts the new SMP – the adoption is scheduled for September – the document will be reviewed by the state Department of Ecology.

For more information on the SMP update process, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx), or contact the Project Manager, Maren Van Nostrand, at 425-295-0538 or [mvannostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:mvannostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us).



*Developed shoreline along Pine lake.*

## Boys and Girls Club Teen Fest

Despite a sprinkly day, the city's second annual Teen Fest drew an estimated crowd of 500 to Sammamish Commons on June 19.

The event kicked off with a skateboard competition that drew kids from as far away as Olympia, and ended with music from several local bands, including Bo Tree, With Honest Eyes, Ian Lowery, and If I Were a Gladiator. The music program was headlined by the Blue Scholars.

In addition to the Boys and Girls Club, the event was sponsored by Moore Brothers Music, Friends of Youth and the city of Sammamish.



*Skateboarders warm up for the competition at the 2009 Teen Fest.*

## CITY CALENDAR

### AUGUST

**Tuesday, Aug. 4**  
Nat'l Night Out & Kids Performance,  
12-4 p.m., City Hall

**Wednesday, Aug. 5**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-8 p.m., City Hall

**Thursday, Aug. 6**  
Summer Concert, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Pine Lake Park

**Wednesday, Aug. 12**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-8 p.m., City Hall  
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 13**  
Summer Concert, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Pine Lake Park

**Tuesday, Aug. 18**  
Kids First Noontime Performance, 12-1 p.m.  
Beaver Lake Park Meadow

**Wednesday, Aug. 19**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-8 p.m., City Hall

**Thursday, Aug. 20**  
Summer Concert, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Pine Lake Park

**Wednesday, Aug. 26**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-8 p.m., City Hall

**Thursday, Aug. 27**  
Summer Concert, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Pine Lake Park

**Saturday, Aug. 29**  
City's 10th Birthday Celebration,  
10 a.m.-10 p.m., City Hall

### SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday, Sept. 1**  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 2**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-7 p.m., City Hall

**Thursday, Sept. 3**  
Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Beaver Lake Park Master Plan  
Public Meeting #3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Beaver Lake Lodge

**Monday, Sept. 7**  
Labor Day, City offices closed

**Tuesday, Sept. 8**  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 9**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-7 p.m., City Hall

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

**Monday, Sept. 14**  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 16**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-7 p.m., City Hall

**Thursday, Sept. 17**  
Town Center Dialogue Tables, 5-7 p.m.  
Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 21**  
Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 23**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-7 p.m., City Hall

**Wednesday, Sept. 30**  
Sammamish Farmers Market,  
4-7 p.m., City Hall

### PLEASE NOTE:

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



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# SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Jack Barry  
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling  
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*



What is your favorite summertime Sammamish activity?

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Riding bikes       | 6. Going on vacation |
| 2. Fourth of July     | 7. Hiking            |
| 3. BBQs/parties       | 8. Boating           |
| 4. Going to Pine Lake | 9. Playing Tennis    |
| 5. Swimming           | 10. Walking my dog   |

Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)  
and click next to the big "10"  
to find out more about the 10th Anniversary Celebration.

## CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)

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**Nancy Whitten, Councilmember**  
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- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Ben Yazici       | City Manager           |
| Pete Butkus      | Deputy City Manager    |
| Kamuron Gurof    | ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr  |
| Lyman Howard     | FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr |
| John Cunningham  | Public Works Director  |
| Jessi Richardson | Parks & Rec Director   |
| Mike Sauerwein   | AdminServices Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk             |
| Nathan Elledge   | Police Chief           |
| Lee Soptich      | Fire Chief             |
| Bruce Disend     | City Attorney          |
| Tim Larson       | Communications Mgr     |