

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 111

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Boys & Girls Club to open next month

With more than 6,000 teenagers living in the Sammamish area, the opening of the EX3 Teen and Recreation Center next month will mark a major step forward in the city's effort to provide more recreation alternatives for young people.

The new center, located in the old library building at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road, is the product of a partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Club.

In this first phase, the city has provided the building and the Boys and Girls Club is busily reconstructing the interior. After some additional fundraising, The Boys and Girls Club is also slated to build an adjoining gymnasium.

"We're excited about next month's opening," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This has taken some work, but it's about to pay off for our residents."

When school is out, the facility will focus primarily on serving young people. When the kids are in the classroom, though, the center will serve seniors and residents of all ages.

*See BOYS, pg. 3*



## 15th Best Place to Live

### SAMMAMISH SHINES IN "SMALL TOWN" CATEGORY

Money Magazine, noting the city's natural beauty, safe streets, great schools and nearby job centers, has once again selected Sammamish as one of the best "small towns" in America, ranking it 15th on a list of 100 towns.

"We've been on this list before, but it's always nice to be recognized on a national level," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I think this reflects

well on residents, businesses, and responsible city governance.

"And, of course, it doesn't hurt that we're in one of the prettiest places in the world."

The rankings, part of a collaboration between Money and CNN, can be found at [money.cnn.com](http://money.cnn.com). The webpage features a photo (see above) of a lakefront home overlooking the placid beauty of Lake Sammamish.

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**  
*Page 2*

**SEN. MURRAY VISITS**  
*Story on page 5*

**SAMMAMISH ARTS FAIR**  
*Story on page 5*

# Thus ends summer in Sammamish...

As the leaves change color and family focus turns to school activities (both scholastic and athletic), let's reflect back on this summer in Sammamish. In so many ways, it's been a very busy season.

The landscape kept its beautiful green desktop this summer, which



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

means that we experienced a sufficiency of liquid sunshine. Fortunately, that only enhanced the ambiance in our great city.

Despite the "good rain," most of the Wednesday Farmers markets were dry, as were most of the concerts and Shakespeare plays at Pine Lake Park. And certainly the 4th of July happenings brought sunny smiles to over 10,000 participants at Sammamish Commons.

Sammamish celebrated its 12th birthday in August with a delightful Sammamish Nites event on the Plaza, as the sun set behind the Seattle skyline and the Olympic Mountains. The multi-cultural Sammamish Days gathering with the kids' parade and varied entertainment activities was also a winner.

Add to that the Beaver Lake Triathlon, Teen Fest, Rotary-sponsored Challenge Race, a myriad of sports camps and it all added up to a very active and memorable summer.

The season also saw your city council and city staff continuing to

explore ways to meet not only your expectations, but those of the county, the state and the federal government.

The Teen/Adult Center partnership with the Boys and Girls Club will be opening soon at the site of the old library.

The Shoreline Master Program was thoroughly vetted in the community and finally approved by the State.

A transfer of development rights agreement was reached with King County, and discussions with the county and the state are on-going with the goal of enhancing the "Emerald Necklace" greenbelt around Sammamish while adding new trails and recreation areas to our inventory.

We also saw a wide range of citizen input during a feasibility study for a potential community/aquatics center.

At the Federal level, Senator Murray and her staff visited Sammamish in August. As co-chair of the deficit-reduction panel charged with identifying \$1.5 trillion in federal deficit reduction, Senator Murray is feeling the heat from her constituents regarding the federal budget, the gloomy economic outlook and the apparent inability of the House, the Senate and the President to find common ground.

Our Congressman, Dave Reichert, held an 8th District mayors meeting in Sammamish recently and heard from his district electeds about some of our concerns. Topics ranged from medical marijuana to the federal transportation reauthorization bill.

An appeal was made to simplify federal regulations and minimize mandates whether dealing with federal grants or inconsistencies and duplication of federal and state regulations.

The city of Sammamish remains a wonderful place to live and, as I pointed out to Senator Murray, we still have a AAA bond rating.

The city's road and trail projects have kept crews busy this summer, but the goal is to stay on top of maintenance programs while improving connectivity and expanding non-motorized facilities throughout the City.

Once again CNN/Money magazine rated Sammamish as amongst the best places to live in the country, and a Forbes Magazine survey rated the Sammamish schools as fifth best on the west coast. The King County library system was rated tops in the country and our own new Sammamish branch received an award for its design and function.

Thus ends summer in this youngest city in western Washington. But another season is upon us, and the future beckons to us all.

To be part of that future, may I suggest a visit to City Hall. Whether it's to enjoy the beautiful art displays, talk with your electeds, meet with city staff, or attend a community, commission or city council meeting, we hope to see you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

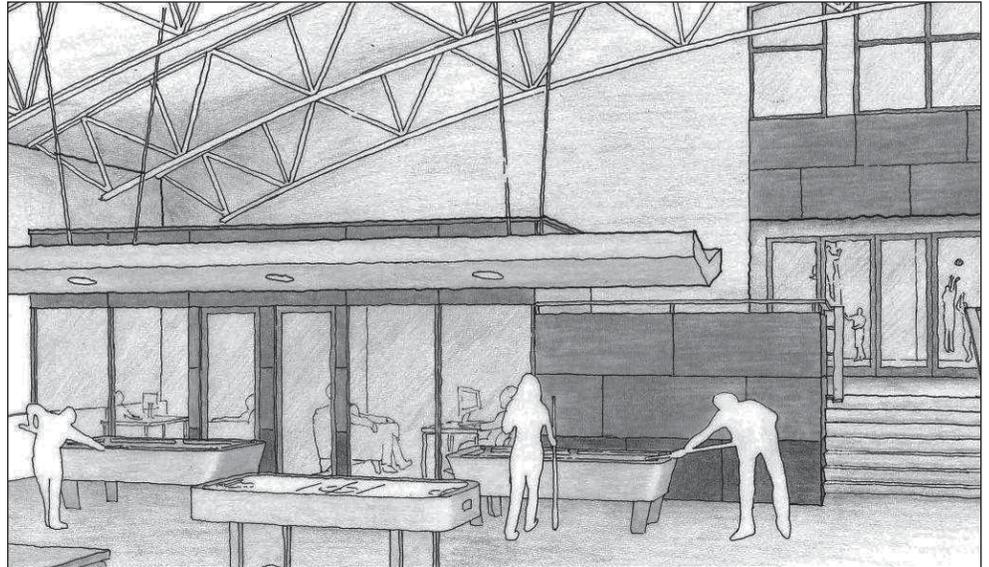
## BOYS, cont. from pg. 1

The Boys & Girls Club has already raised the \$1 million needed for the first-phase renovation of the old library building. The organization is currently raising another \$3 million or more to fund construction of the new gym.

“The timing of the gym construction will depend on how fundraising goes,” Yazici said. “It would be great if the Boys & Girls Club could get it built in the next two to five years.”

Of more immediate interest are the features and programs that will be available next month. They include:

- Technology lab
  - Performance stage
  - Teaching kitchen
  - Games room
  - Study space
  - Multi-purpose space
  - Educational and wellness classes
- Tours of the facility while it's un-



*A variety of activities will be available to residents of all ages at the Sammamish EX3 Teen and Recreation Center, now under construction by the Boys and Girls Club.*

der construction are available every Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. Residents interested in taking a look should arrive wearing long pants and closed-toed shoes. Shorts, skirts and open-toed shoes are not allowed.

For more information on the new center, go to [www.rs.positiveplace.org/teencenter.html](http://www.rs.positiveplace.org/teencenter.html). Inquiries about donations or other support activities should be directed to Jeremy Peck ([jpeck@positiveplace.org](mailto:jpeck@positiveplace.org)), 425-250-4786.

## Wildlife habitat makes Sammamish special

Sammamish is known as a bedroom community, but thanks to some hardworking volunteers, the opportunity for a good night's rest is not limited to humans. Now that Sammamish is in its first year as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat, this is also a good place for critters to snooze.

It all started in 2008 when a small group headed by Elaine McEnery began working to meet all the requirements. In broad terms, the team needed to certify that numerous habitats within the city provided food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young.

By the time the city was certified in March of this year, McEnery's volunteers had qualified 160 homes, eight city parks, eight schools, four farms, one church,

the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District's headquarters, and four of the district's well sites.

When Sammamish received its certification from the National Wildlife Federation, it became one of only 12 communities in Washington to earn that distinction. Across the country, only 51 communities have been similarly certified.

“This is a great accomplishment,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “This makes it easier for all of us to co-exist – residents, flora and fauna.”

The volunteers included Hank Klein, Pauline Cantor, Dawn Sanders, Jan Bird, Stan Wood, and Katya May. More information on their project is available at [www.sammamishwildlifeproject.blogspot.com](http://www.sammamishwildlifeproject.blogspot.com).



## State approves city's new shoreline regs

After a five-year effort, the city's update of shoreline regulations received final approval from the state's Department of Ecology in a letter dated Aug. 17. The regulations took effect two weeks late on Aug. 31.

Known as the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update, this revision engaged the interest of shoreline property owners, the environmental community and other stakeholders.

"The community needed to balance a variety of competing goals," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Thanks to our residents and a hard-working city staff, we came up with an approach that both protects the environment and provides flexibility for homeowners and builders. We're delighted it's done."

Among other things the new regulations cover docks, bulkheads, setbacks, vegetation requirements and a

variety of water quality habitat issues. The last major SMP update affecting the Sammamish area was implemented in 1978. Now that this one is done, the city expects the next state-mandated update will be due in eight to 10 years.

To help builders and property owners understand the new code, the city will be creating a user guide over the next two to three months. It will be available at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).

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## Senator Murray visits Sammamish

### LISTENS TO COUNCIL AND BUSINESS VOICES

Taking a break from the center of the political universe – as co-chair of the congressional deficit reduction panel – Sen. Patty Murray came by Sammamish City Hall on Aug. 17 for a pleasant exchange of views with local elected officials and business representatives.

Touching on a number of topics during the one-hour meeting, Sen. Murray met with Mayor Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Tom Odell, Councilmembers Michele Petitti and Nancy Whitten, City Manager Ben Yazici, Deputy City Manager Lyman Howard and Sammamish Chamber of Commerce representatives Jason Weil and Deborah Sogge.

“Sen. Murray did a great job of listening to everyone’s concerns,” City



*Sen. Patty Murray (center) visits with Sammamish Mayor Don Gerend (left), Michele Petitti, City Manager Ben Yazici and Deputy Mayor Tom Odell.*

Manager Ben Yazici said. “The national deficit, transportation, taxes, veteran’s issues, our local housing market – we talked about a lot of things.”

There were smiles all around when Mayor Gerend pressed for a Sammamish Post Office. Like everyone else

at the table, he knew that hundreds of post offices are being closed across the country to save money.

“I had to ask,” Gerend said with a laugh, noting that he and other councilmembers receive frequent requests for a local post office.

## Arts Commission keeps the scene bubbling

### PAINTED LIFE DOCUMENTARY

Dutch-born fine arts painter Henk Pander and his son, filmmaker Jacob Pander, both of the Portland area, will attend a screening of “Painted Life,” a documentary made by the son about his father’s life and work.

The event will be at City Hall on Sept. 10, 1-4 p.m. Both men will take questions after the 75-minute film. To see an excerpt of the documentary, go to [www.henkpander.com/painted-life](http://www.henkpander.com/painted-life).

Also, aspiring painters and sketchers are invited to bring a work to be critiqued by the artist. As many critiques as possible will be accommodated in the final hour of the event.

### SAMMAMISH ARTS FAIR ON OCT. 8, 9

Now in its fifth year, the Sammamish Arts Fair continues to enhance its reputation by featuring some of the best jury-selected artists on the Eastside. Thwwe fair, at City Hall on October 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will display paintings, jewelry, mixed media encaustic works, glass arts, ceramics, woodcarving, photography and textile art. The art will be available for purchase.

The fair, which is free and open to the general public, will also feature live music and light refreshments. Performance art and hands-on family art projects will be presented next door at the Sammamish Library.

The fair is run by the participating artists under the sponsorship of the city of Sammamish, the Sammamish Arts Commission, and King County’s 4Culture program. For more information, go to [sammamishartfair.wordpress.com](http://sammamishartfair.wordpress.com).

## Have a nice couch, lamp, or toaster to donate?

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS INTERESTED

In its mission to build and furnish homes for low-income families, Habitat for Humanity of East King County is always on the lookout for structurally sound, new-looking household items. If you have something to donate, please call 425-869-6007, the donation hotline for the new Habitat for Humanity “store” that just opened in Bellevue.

Among the items they love: chairs, bed frames, desks, tables, refrigerators, microwaves, televisions, air conditioners, power tools, decorative art, clocks and ceiling fans. Through a partnership with Second Use Building Materials, the store also accepts plumbing, hardware and other building materials.

For more information on donation, go to the store website at [www.habitatkc.org](http://www.habitatkc.org). Pickup is available for some items.

## Leave the leaves this fall?

The slow, fluttering onslaught is just around the corner, so you may want to locate that rake, but there are other ways of dealing with falling leaves.

- How about running over them with your lawnmower and cutting them up into mulch? Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for your lawn.
- Or, rake the leaves into a big compost pile for a nutrient-rich fertilizer to use on your garden next spring.

If you rake the leaves and put them out front, make sure you follow your community guidelines for curb-side pickup. One suggestion: Don't put the leaves out by the curb until right before collection day.

Another big don't: Never rake leaves into or near storm drains, ditches, creeks, streams or lakes. Decaying leaves use up the water's oxygen and damage stream inhabitants.

## Fall volunteer events

If you're a community volunteer that helps make Sammamish a great place to live, then it's almost time to get your work gloves and sturdy shoes back on. Several volunteer events are awaiting you support this fall.

For full details contact Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders ([dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us), 425-295-0556), but here is a brief description of the opportunities:

Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon  
Planting work at Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to noon  
Removing invasives and  
putting in new plants at Illahee Trail

Saturday, Nov. 19, 1-3 p.m.  
Planting salvaged plants, weeding and mulching at  
the at the Lower Commons native plant garden

Saturday, Oct. 8; Sunday, Oct. 9  
Setup and support for Sammamish Art Fair

## Mayors' month of concern inspires local food drive

From Sept. 24 until Oct. 22, Don Gerend and other eastside mayors are encouraging all of us to donate food items to replenish the shelves of area food banks.

Billed as the Mayors' Month of Concern Food Drive, this annual event is supported by the leaders of Sammamish, Issaquah, Redmond, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Kirkland, and North Bend.

To help out in Sammamish, please drop off non-perishable food items or cash at City Hall, TLC Academy, Plateau Chiropractic, both Mail Posts and Fire Stations 81, 82 and 83.

For more information about the “Month of Concern,” go to [www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive](http://www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive). If you would like to hold your own food drive or volunteer to pass our flyers at shopping centers, please contact one of these three people:

Dawn Sanders - [dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us)

Mary Trask - [Mary@ARASFoundation.org](mailto:Mary@ARASFoundation.org)

Melonie Anderson - [manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us)

# CITY CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

Thursday, Sept. 1  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, Sep. 2  
Photography Exhibit by Victoria Bjorklund, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Monday, Sept. 5  
Labor Day  
City offices closed  
Tuesday, Sept. 6  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 7  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 8  
Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 10  
Documentary Film: Painted Life, The story of Henk Pander, 1-4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 13  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 14  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 15  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17  
Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon  
Beaver Lake Lodge  
Monday, Sept. 19  
Finance Committee Mtg, 5:30-6:15 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 20  
City Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 21  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 22  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 28  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

## OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 4  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 5  
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 6  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 8  
Sunday, Oct. 9  
Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 11  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 13  
Community Garden Steering Committee Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 15  
Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon  
Hazel Wolf Wetlands  
Monday, Oct. 17  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 18  
City Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 20  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 27  
Jet City Improv, 7-9 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.

## City hires new finance director

Sammamish didn't go far to recruit its newest employee. Joseph Guinasso, the city's new finance director, was just across the lake in Bellevue serving as that city's director of business development services.



*Joseph Guinasso  
New Finance Director*

Before taking on that role, Guinasso served as Bellevue's assistant finance director. He has also worked for King County, Auburn and in the private sector.

"Joseph brings a wealth of experience to this new challenge," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're excited to have a veteran, energetic leader at the helm in finance."

Guinasso, who started Sept. 1, takes over for Lyman Howard, now the city's Deputy City Manager.

## Test your traffic IQ

**True or false:** I can drive around a pedestrian or bicyclist while they are in the crosswalk at an intersection.

**Answer:** Drivers must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian or bicyclist has completed the crossing, or until they are more than one lane width away from the lane you are driving in or turning into. This applies to both marked and unmarked crosswalks.

**Source:** RCW 46.61.235

**Fine:** \$124



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*John Curley  
Councilmember*



*John James  
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*

**Open House !!!**



The city of Sammamish cordially invites you to attend an open house celebrating the new Maintenance and Operations Center on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 4-7 p.m., at 1801 244th Ave. N.E.  
**Cake and ice cream will be served!**

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES**

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075  
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

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

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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Lyman Howard	Dep City Mgr/Finance Dir
Kamuron Gurol	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?**  
**Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson**  
425-295-0555  
[tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us)