



# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 66

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

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## Residents see library model

### *Library system “highly motivated” to build in Sammamish*

Although the library model on display at City Hall last month was preliminary, Bill Ptacek, the director of the King County Library System, is eager to start construction.

“Every month we wait, construction costs go up \$70,000,” Ptacek said. “We’re highly motivated to get going.”

If design, permitting and other details can be worked out in a timely fashion, Ptacek hopes to start construction next summer. Barring major delays, the doors of the new Sammamish library could swing open as early as summer 2009.

See LIBRARY, pg. 5

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*Abandoned cars line Inglewood Hill Road the morning after the big storm.*

## Remember last January?

### *City urges drivers to prepare for winter*

There’s no guarantee last winter’s nightmarish scenario – five inches of snow perfectly timed to the Jan. 10 evening commute – will repeat itself, but city officials are urging all drivers to be better prepared this time around.

During last winter’s big snow storm, impromptu car lots developed at the bottom of icy hills, thinly clad commuters slipped and stumbled home through the dark, and thoughts of better preparation no doubt took root.

“I think everyone in the region learned lessons during that storm,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “As a

city, we’ve upgraded our road-clearing resources, and as individuals, we’ve learned that there’s no substitute for self-reliance.”

Pertinent websites (see attached list) provide a wealth of advice, but here are the basics:

- Keep your gas tank at least three-quarters full.
- Keep blankets, warm clothes, gloves, winter footwear, tire chains, jumper cables and a supply of water and dried food in the trunk.

See WINTER, pg. 3



*Mark Cross  
Mayor*

Winter has me thinking about the 4th of July. I have been to some good 4th of July celebrations but the Sammamish 4th was great. I got to play in a band. Thank you Mark and Jim and the rest of the “Pla-Tones” for having me.

We played before most of the people showed up, but whenever you were there, early or late, you had to notice what a diverse community Sammamish has become. There are people here from all over the planet, working in high tech or other fields around Puget Sound, and all looking for the same things that have brought people to Sammamish for years – great schools and a great place to live and raise a family.

I think our next great challenge is to make everything about this city open and welcoming to that larger group of folks who call Sammamish home. Whether they are here on temporary assignment or settling in for the long run, this city needs to be about all of us. Then everybody will feel that they can and should contribute their energy and time to making the city even better.

It is time to widen our horizons and raise our city to this next level. To that end, I have been talking to residents and event participants about events that will feel like home for the many, many residents that are very far from home.

As I hand the mayor’s role over to the next person, I go back to being just one of the seven council members. I wondered what I would do stepping out of leadership for the whole city.

Now I know that I want to work on – reaching out to all of our residents. If all our residents feel this is their city to help build, it is just going to be a better, more interesting place for all of us.

I got to play with my band on the 4th of July. Now it’s your turn and your neighbor’s turn to see and hear events that inspire you, that speak to you and that say this city is about you. Wherever you are from, you are really home, here in Sammamish.

Please, join me, the city council, all our boards and commissions, and our great staff in making this an even better place to live and raise a family – for everyone.

# Incumbents sweep council races

*Nov. 6 election returns Cross, Petitti, and Whitten to City Council*



*Mark Cross  
City Council*



*Michele Petitti  
City Council*



*Nancy Whitten  
City Council*

**Mark Cross - 65.67 % of vote**  
**Stan Gunno - 34.11 % of vote**

**Michele Petitti - 53.35 % of vote**  
**Karen Moran - 46.40 % of vote**

**Nancy Whitten - 51.82 % of vote**  
**John James - 47.95 % of vote**

*\*Vote percentages at press time on King County election website ([www.metrokc.gov/elections/200711/results.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/200711/results.asp)).*

WINTER, cont. from pg. 1

- Make sure you have the right size chains and know how to put them on.
- Keep some sand and a shovel in your trunk, along with an ice scraper, flashlight, flares, anti-freeze, and first-aid kit.
- Check your tires for good traction.
- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape and your window cleaner reservoir is full.
- Know ahead of time which priority routes the city will plow.
- If you park away from your home to avoid steep hills, make sure to pull over in a safe area where traffic won't be impeded.
- Remember that four-wheel drives don't stop on a dime in snow and ice. Keep the conditions in mind and drive safely.

“Snow storms like the one we had last January are a lot like power outages, earthquakes or other emergencies,” Yazici said. “During those first few hours, or even days, you need to be able to take care of yourself.”

For the city's part, Operations and Maintenance Manager Charlie Simpson has a few more tools to work with.

“We have a pair of new four-wheel trucks we can put snow plows on this winter,” Simpson said. “That will give us a total of six, counting the driver and truck we borrow from the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District.

“That gives us about a 50 percent increase in the amount of plowing, sanding, and anti-icing work we can do.”

The city also purchased its own storage tank so it

wouldn't run out of anti-icing liquid so quickly.

“Like a lot of cities, in past winters we relied on King County for our supply,” Simpson said. “Obviously, that can be a problem if everyone in the region runs short during a big storm.”

Besides helping yourself with proper winter-driving preparation, Simpson says there are some other things residents can do to help themselves and city crews:

- Properly dispose of grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris so they don't clog storm water drains.
- Periodically clear nearby storm drains to ensure proper drainage.
- Help children and other pedestrians by clearing snow from nearby sidewalks.

Although the likelihood of another five-inch snowfall during the evening commute may be small, Simpson urges residents to think back on that cold January night and find the motivation to get properly prepared.

“It may seem like a nuisance now, but you'll be very, very happy the next time you get caught in a snowstorm and you find everything you need in the trunk of your car.”

**Useful Winter Preparation Websites:**

- [www.fema.gov/areyouready/winter.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/winter.shtm)
- [www.govlink.org/3days3ways/](http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways/)
- [www.ci.seattle.wa.us/transportation/snowandiceprepare.htm](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/transportation/snowandiceprepare.htm)



*Shoe leather replaced motorized transportation for some residents last winter.*

## Decision on 30-acre transfer is delayed

The proposed transfer of 30 acres from the county to the city was delayed last month when the King County Council decided to conduct an environmental review of the transfer. At press time, it was unclear how long the review would take.

If the transfer goes through, the city plans to build recreational facilities on the site, the nature of which will be determined by a public master plan process. The 30-acre site, just inside the southern edge of 630-acre Soaring Eagle Park, abuts the eastern city limits.

Proponents of the transfer, including the city and King County Executive Ron Sims, believe the move will provide badly needed recreational opportunities in the area.

Opponents say the noise from the 30-acre facility will intrude on the remaining 600 acres and alter their hiking, biking and equestrian experience. They have also expressed concern that other uses may eventually encroach on Soaring Eagle Park.



*Thirty acres of this 630-acre county property may be transferred to Sammamish so the city can build recreational facilities.*

## Thanks for summer entertainment!

On Nov. 6, the City Council gave thanks to the businesses and organizations that make the city's summer entertainment programs possible.

Kelly Jensen of Plateau Jewelers received a plaque for an \$8,000 sponsorship contribution in support of the summer concert series at Pine Lake Park. Rebecca of "Salon Rebecca" also helped out with the concerts, contributing a \$1,000 sponsorship for the second year in a row.

The local Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) was recognized for its contributions, which included basic first aid, stage security, and the reuniting of lost children with their parents.

Also on hand was Warren Huckabay of the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis donated \$500 in support of "Kids First," the noontime entertainment series held at Beaver Lake Lodge each summer.



*Kelly Jensen of Plateau Jewelers with Mayor Mark Cross.*



*The city's Lynne Handlos (left) with Steve Van Wambeck, Zee Walker, and Cindy Van Wambeck, all with CERT.*



*Kiwanis Club member Warren Huckabay (left) accepts plaque from Mayor Mark Cross.*

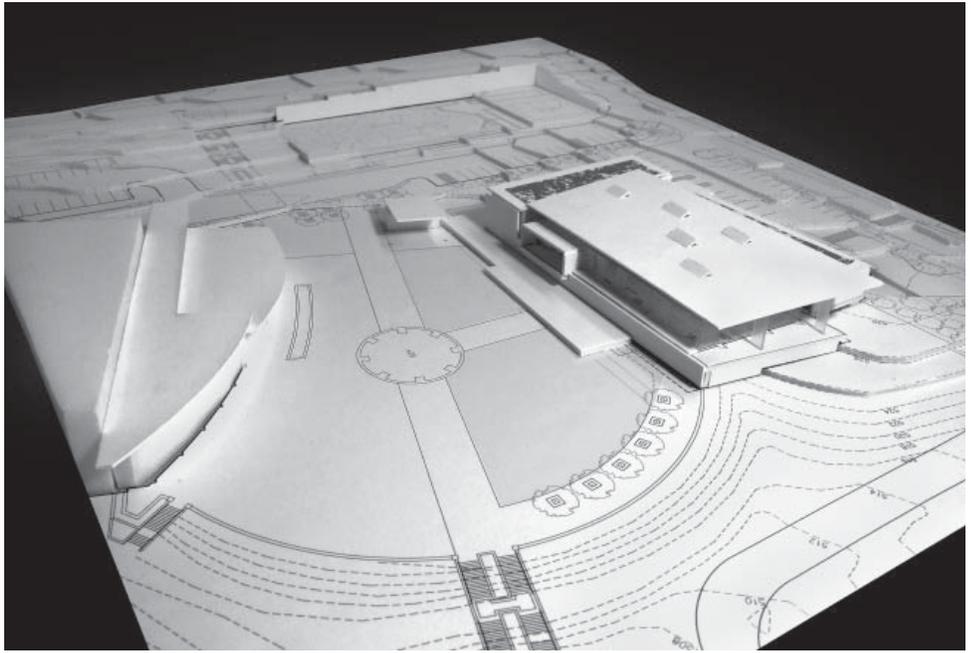
## LIBRARY, cont. from pg. 1

The new library will be located in Sammamish Commons, just south of City Hall on the other side of the existing public plaza.

“The library is really going to make this a special place,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We’ll have two really compatible public buildings with the public plaza opening up to a view of the Seattle skyline.

“We’ve already seen what the Commons can be like during special events like the July 4th celebration. Now, with a busy library going in next to City Hall, this spot is going to be lively and vibrant every day.”

Preliminary designs call for a two-story, 19,000-square-foot library building with an additional level underneath for parking. Nearby surface parking will also be available, and the library system is trying to arrange for overflow space on adjacent private lots. The new facility will be almost twice as big as the old one.



*This concept model shows the new library on the right, City Hall on the left, and the public plaza in the middle. The view from this perspective looks east toward 228th Avenue.*

“The community has been asking for a better library for a long time,” Yazici said. “I know our councilmembers are very happy to be fulfilling that wish.”

The City Council cleared the way for the new library by authorizing the City Manager to sell the

library system 172,000 square feet of land on the Commons site. Although some details of the sale agreement remain to be worked out, both sides are confident the fine print will fall into place.

Ptacek says the new building will reflect the evolutionary changes libraries have undergone in the past decade or two, noting that there will be more “people space” for residents to relax, browse and spend time, and that he wants the library to feel “like the community’s living room.”

At a Nov. 7 open house at City Hall, the response of Sammamish residents was very positive, Ptacek said.

“Everyone was really excited,” he said. “With three high schools nearby, I think this location made a lot of sense to people.”

More information is available at the King County Library System website ([www.kcls.org/bond/sammamish/](http://www.kcls.org/bond/sammamish/)) or by calling 425-369-3275.



*Looking north at City Hall from the site of the new library.*

## 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 S.E. Eighth Street and N.E. 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 N.E.:** The design team is currently completing the Design Report and 30% plans for the proposed improvements from N.E. Inglewood Hill Road to 187th Avenue N.E. (northern city limits). The Design Report is scheduled for presentation to the City Council at the November 13 study session. The Design Report will be available

for public review in advance of the presentation to City Council. Final design of the first phase, from N.E. Inglewood Hill Road to N.E. 26th Street is anticipated to begin in late 2007. Construction of this \$13.7M initial segment is scheduled for 2009 after the SR202 widening improvements are completed. Key proposed features of this project include widening the roadway to three lanes to add either a center turn lane or landscaped median, bike lanes, and a sidewalk on the east side. The remaining two segments will be designed and constructed in future years. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0561. Project webpage: [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP).

**212th Avenue S.E. Sidewalk:** This project will construct sidewalk along the west side of 212th Avenue S.E.

in the vicinity of Ebright Creek Park and close the existing gaps between the park and The Crossings at Pine Lake subdivision to the south and the future Chestnut Lane subdivision to the north. Construction is scheduled for 2008. 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 Avenue S.E. and 224th Avenue S.E., along S.E. 32nd Street, 216th Avenue S.E., S.E. 28th Street, 222nd Place S.E., and S.E. 30th Street. 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 in spring 2008. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at [jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0563.

# "Performance measurement" wins award

## *Sammamish recognized by city and county managers' group*

As one of the early adopters of the "performance measurement" approach to management, Sammamish received a certificate of achievement from the International City/County Managers' Association (ICMA) at their annual conference in October.

Sammamish was one of just 30 jurisdictions (out of 200 participants) that received recognition for its efforts. Finance Director Lyman Howard accepted the award at the Pittsburgh conference and then presented it to the City Council and City Manager Ben Yazici at a Nov. 6 council meeting.

The "performance measurement" approach gathers data in a variety of service areas, identifies management practices that contribute to high performance, and shares the results so jurisdictions can help each other in a "process of continuous improvement."



*From the left, Deputy Finance Director Aaron Antin, Finance Director Lyman Howard, Mayor Mark Cross and City Manager Ben Yazici accept the award.*

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

### December

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 4**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Thursday, Dec. 6**

Planning Commission Mtg, 4:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

*Sammamish Library*

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 11**

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

*City Hall*

#### **Wednesday, Dec. 12**

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

*City Hall*

#### **Thursday, Dec. 13**

Planning Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Monday, Dec. 17**

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

*City Hall*

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 18**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Thursday, Dec. 20**

Planning Commission Mtg, 3 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 25**

Christmas

*City Hall closed*

### January

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 1**

New Year's Day

*City Hall closed*

#### **Thursday, Jan. 3**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 8**

Special Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Thursday, Jan. 10**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 15**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Monday, Jan. 21**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*City Hall*

#### **Thursday, Jan. 24**

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

*Sammamish Library*

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



Mark Cross  
Mayor



Lee Felling  
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry  
Councilmember



Don Gerend  
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember



Michele Petitti  
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember

# Farmers Market Update

If things go according to plan, a Farmers Market will be up and running in Sammamish by May of next year.

That news comes from the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, the community group enlisted by the city to launch and run the market.

According to Dawn Sanders, the Chamber President, a seven-member steering committee is shooting for Wednesday, May 21, as the opening day for the new venture, with market hours in the afternoon.

“Everyone on the steering committee is really excited about adding this wonderful feature



to our community,” Sanders said. “We know a lot of our residents have wanted a Farmers Market for a long time.”

The market will be located on the public plaza just south of City Hall in the Sammamish Commons.

The members of the Farmers Market steering committee, along with Sanders, are: Karen Bergsvk (resident), Loreen Leo (resident), Heidi Bohan (farmers market consultant), Kevin Huseman (city staff), Jessi Richardson (city staff), and Carol Butkus (Chamber member).

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



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