



# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 54

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

## Council raises transportation impact fees

Following several months of broad-based public discussion and analysis, the City Council voted Nov. 21 to raise the transportation impact fee for a new house to \$14,850. The fee, to be spent on increased road capacity and related infrastructure, used to be \$7,600 per house.

“The Planning Commission, development community, city staff and many individual residents all played a part in this decision,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s difficult to describe how much high-level work was required to arrive at the proper formula for these fees.

“But now it’s done, and the council has taken a big step to make sure growth helps pay for the cost of growth.”

See *IMPACT FEES*, pg. 3



*Two young soccer players test out the new Community Sports Field at Skyline High School shortly before the ribbon cutting.*

## Four acres of fun at new city sports field

The City of Sammamish and the Issaquah School District cut the ribbon on a brand-new, four-acre sports field on Saturday, Nov. 18. The lighted, synthetic-turf field, located on the campus of Skyline High School, was the product of a partnership between the city and the school district.

“This new field is going to give students and non-students alike a lot more space to play sports,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “I can’t thank the Issaquah School District enough

for sharing their campus, providing excellent cooperation, and letting the city build this beautiful, \$2.5 million facility. This is a win-win.”

Last January, in a joint effort with the Lake Washington School District, a similar field opened on the campus of Eastlake High School. With their lights and synthetic surfaces, both fields will offer year around use, during daytime and evening hours, for a

See *SPORTS FIELD*, pg. 3

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Impact fees.....	1
New sports field .....	1
Mayor’s message .....	2
Parks advisory committee .....	2
Cleaning grates .....	4
Paved trail .....	4
New parks director .....	5
SE 24th boardwalk .....	5
Project updates .....	6
Improving permit processes .....	7
City Hall calendar .....	7
City Hall contact information .....	8



Mayor  
Michele Petitti

December is the month for expressing our dreams and hopes, and for finding ways to bring happiness to our loved ones or those less fortunate.

I cherish this time, but my wish would be for more people to engage in “giving” the whole year through. Giving is “about raising your hand even if you are not called on,” to quote a recent graduate of Leadership Eastside (more on them in a moment).

Many Sammamish residents are already active volunteers in our community, school, civic and sports organizations. I offer a salute of gratitude to them, and invite the rest of you to think about how you can engage more fully in our community.

So how should you get started? I have a few suggestions, but first let me give you some good news. During the city’s next budget cycle, we are planning to add a volunteer coordinator position.

For several years, we have had people offering their help/services to our city, but we didn’t know what to do with them, or how to include them in projects. With a person devoted to community volunteers, we’ll be able to sign you up to help us on city projects such as building play structures in our parks, trail blazing, and other forms of beautification.

Broadly, this new person should also be able to direct people to other organizations in our community with a focus that might be of interest to the volunteer.

To learn the skills to lead and problem solve in our larger community, I invite you to check out Leadership Eastside ([www.leadershipeastside.com](http://www.leadershipeastside.com)), a dynamic new organization that is building tomorrow’s leaders. I am happy to report that several Sammamish residents are recent graduates of the program.

The group has wrestled with and produced solutions for big problems such as homelessness, hunger, and why kids are struggling with math and science. One group discovered that there is a major disconnect between

food bank giving and the actual need. Many of us clean out our cupboards to donate, but what’s really needed are rice and beans, not peanut butter, tuna fish, or one absurdity I heard about – quail eggs!

You can also look to the Sammamish Review newspaper for suggestions. In every issue, in their calendar section, volunteer opportunities are listed along with the names of clubs and groups that do great work. A big “thank you” to the Sammamish Review for providing these listings free of charge.

Here is wishing you and yours a happy and memorable holiday season. And I hope you’ll make the next one even better by giving some thought to improving your “giving” by not thinking so much about the “getting.” The Rotary club motto is: “Service above Self.” I believe that is the key to raising us all up.

Peace and joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele E. Petitti".

## Fifteen residents will review park bond options

At the request of the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission has sketched out three park bond packages, all ranging between \$30 million and \$40 million.

Those options will now be reviewed by the “Citizens Advisory Committee to Review Possible Revenue Options for Parks and Recreation Projects,” a group boasting 15 volunteer members and the longest committee name in city history.

The CACTRPROFPARP, com-

monly referred to as the “parks advisory committee,” will recommend a preferred option as the city moves toward placing a bond package on the ballot in 2007 or 2008.

The members of the new advisory committee are Matt Peterson, Helen Baxter, Mark Stendal, Judi McLaughlin, Robert Ittes, John James, Bernie Lucking, Kelly Munn, Bente Pasko, Bruce Patterson, Lyn Pease, Leigh Stokes, Tom Vance, Joe Forde and Rena Brady.

The preferred option is expected to include funding for a waterfront park along Lake Sammamish, trails and other non-motorized pathways, new and improved sports fields, and possibly a community and/or aquatic center.

Whatever option is recommended, the park bond would need the approval of voters before implementation. For information on committee meeting times, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on the calendar.

***IMPACT FEES, cont. from pg. 1***

Over the next 18 years, the transportation impact fees paid by developers are expected to contribute around \$40 million. By law, impact fees for new homes can't be used to pay for historical deficits in the transportation infrastructure.

The city will address that deficit, and pay for its share of new growth impacts, by investing approximately \$110 million in road improvements over the next 18 years.

In a related action, the City Council also approved an addendum to a legal settlement with several developers who said the city's six-year development moratorium, which ended in 2005, and the city's growth

phasing ordinance, which was repealed earlier this year, had caused delays and financial harm. The addendum reduced the increase in transportation impact fees for the affected lots to \$12,500.

Based on current zoning, the city has roughly 2,700 lots that could potentially be developed before Sammamish is "built out." Just over 500 of those lots would qualify for the lower fee.

"After looking carefully at the financial risk posed by litigation, we decided the legal settlement made sense for our taxpayers." City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It gives us greater certainty on impact fee revenues, and greatly reduces the likelihood of fu-

ture litigation."

At the same Nov. 21 meeting, the City Council approved a new impact fee for parks, requiring developers to pay \$2,600 per new house for the construction and improvement of the city's parks and recreation facilities.

"These impact fee decisions were very important," Yazici said. "New people are coming to Sammamish for the same reason the rest of us did, to enjoy a good quality of life. Our City Council and all of our stakeholders have really stepped up to the plate and done the right thing. These decisions will help ensure that Sammamish will remain an attractive place for established residents and newcomers alike."

***SPORTS FIELD, cont. from pg. 1***

variety of sports. Among other things, the fields are lined for soccer, lacrosse, softball and baseball.

"These synthetic fields on school campuses provide both financial and environmental advantages," Yazici said. "For one thing, we can use the existing school parking. That saves everyone money and doesn't create more impervious surfaces. We also don't have to water, fertilize or do any significant maintenance on the playing field."

When the city incorporated in 1999, residents made it clear they wanted more sports fields and recreational space, Yazici said.

"This is the latest example of the City Council's commitment to building more recreational facilities for our community," he said.

The city will schedule the new field for evening and weekend use. Interested residents should call 425-295-0585 to reserve space.



*Cutting the ribbon, from left: Park Planner Linda Frkuska, Interim Parks Director Pete Butkus, Mayor Michele Petitti, Parks Commissioner Chris Leyerle, Will Cross, Deputy Mayor Mark Cross, Kathleen Cross, City Manager Ben Yazici, Eren Yazici, and former Parks Director Jeff Watling.*

# You can help reduce local flooding:



*A clogged gutter along Northeast 16th Street.*

## *Clean that grate before the rain hits*

Those stormwater grates along your sidewalk or street work just fine – until a storm comes along. Then there's a problem.

The leaves pile up, the water hurdles right over the clogged grate, and the flooding begins.

“Just going outside the house and clearing that grate is a simple step everyone in Sammamish could take to really help out,” said Eric LaFrance, the city's drainage engineer.

That simple step will reduce the chance of flooding on nearby properties, LaFrance said.

“Until someone invents a drain that doesn't attract leaves, we need the help of individual residents.”

## Paved trail comment period closes Dec. 19

King County's preferred alternative for a permanent East Lake Sammamish Trail calls for a “fully paved trail with a separated soft-surface strip or wider soft-surface shoulder for pedestrian and equestrian use where possible.”

That alternative, plus others in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), received comment at a public hearing on Nov. 9. The county will continue to take public comment on the alternatives until Dec. 19.

The DEIS can be viewed online at <http://metrokc.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail> and at public libraries in Sammamish, Redmond, Issaquah and Bellevue. Comments on the DEIS may be submitted via email at [fmd.sepacomments@metrokc.gov](mailto:fmd.sepacomments@metrokc.gov).

The 7-mile Sammamish section of the interim trail opened officially in March. Counting segments in Redmond and Issaquah that opened earlier, the gravel recreational trail now extends for 11 miles.

King County estimates their preferred alternative would cost around \$35 million over three to five years of construction time, possibly beginning in 2009.



*King County's Robert Nunnenkamp, right, answers questions at the Nov. 9 meeting.*

# City hires new parks director

After a thorough search, the city found its new parks and recreation director just up the road – in North Bend.

Jessi Richardson, who will join the city on Dec. 18, has been the executive director of the Si View Metropolitan Park District since 2004.

“All of our interview panels were very enthusiastic about her,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “They liked her personally, and were impressed with her credentials and work history.”

Richardson, who has a masters degree in public administration from Seattle University, has also worked for the cities of Tukwila and SeaTac.

“In addition to running a park district, she also has a lot of experience managing facilities and supervising youth programs,” Yazici said. “I’m excited she’s joining our team.”

Richardson will have a full plate when she starts her new job. In addition to managing the existing parks and recreation facilities and programs, the new director will be charged with finding new park space and open space, building new facilities, and fulfilling the city’s commitment to increasing the recreational opportunities in the community.



*Jessi Richardson, the city's new parks and recreation director, with her dog Moki.*

## SE 24th boardwalk is popular – and safe!

Students walking to Discovery Elementary along Southeast 24th Street still see the traffic whizzing by, but now they’re moving along 1,800 feet of new boardwalk, safely separated from cars, trucks and buses.

“I walk to work along the boardwalk now,” said City Clerk Melonie Anderson. “I see a lot of kids carrying their backpacks to school. It used to be scary, seeing them walk on the shoulder of the road.”

The \$2 million project, which had a ribbon cutting in February, also included new sidewalk segments that were completed during an earlier construction phase. The new pedestrian route stretches from 228th Avenue Southeast to 244th Avenue Southeast.



*Looking west along Southeast 24th Street on a recent morning.*

## 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. Design is 30 percent complete, with construction expected to begin in late summer or early fall 2007. The construction contract is estimated at just over \$13 million. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at 425-295-0563 or [jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Pine Lake Transit Access Road:**

This \$1.8 million project will provide a new, three-lane road connection between Southeast 30th Street and 228th Avenue. The road will feature one lane in each direction, a center turn lane or landscaped median, a porous sidewalk on the south side and a soft walking path on the north side. Currently about half-way through construction, the road should be complete by early 2007. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0561.

### **Northeast Eighth Street Walkway:**

This sidewalk project along the north side of Northeast Eighth Street will result in pedestrian improvements between 228th Avenue Northeast and 244th Avenue Northeast. With the exception of landscaping, this

\$434,000 project is essentially complete. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Intersection improvement at East Lake Sammamish Parkway and Louis Thompson Hill Road:**

With the goal of improving safety and traffic flow, this \$359,000 project will feature new signal lights and street lights. The signal poles will be installed early next year. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **228th Avenue Northeast Walkway:**

This \$2,040,000 project will create a sidewalk on the west side of 228th Avenue between Northeast 12th Place and Northeast 25th Way. The project will also feature road widening, retaining walls and new sections of storm sewer. This multi-year effort, which is already underway, will occur in three distinct phases. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **East Lake Sammamish Parkway:**

This project, stretching from Northeast Inglewood Hill Road to the northern city limits, isn't scheduled to begin construction until 2008. After environmental analysis is complete, the City Council is expected to choose a design alternative sometime in 2007. With the goal of reducing congestion and improving safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, this \$41 million

project will have multiple stages. Among other things, it will widen the roadway, add a median or left turn lane, provide bike lanes and build a sidewalk on the east side of the parkway. Project Manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Beaver Lake Preserve Loop Trail:**

A 1.2 mile loop trail is the centerpiece of this \$265,000 project in the Beaver Lake Preserve. It will pass through a maturing second growth cedar forest and cross wetlands. The project will also build a 10-space crushed rock parking lot, information kiosk, and portable restroom enclosure. With construction already underway, the trail is expected to open this spring. Project manager Kevin Husemann can be reached at 425-295-0583 or [khusemann@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:khusemann@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Watermain replacement (SE 32nd St. and 212th Ave. SE):**

This Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District (District) project is replacing an old cement watermain with a larger, ductile iron watermain to improve fire flows and reliability in the area southwest of Pine Lake. Completion is expected this spring. Project Manager Jim Konigsfeld can be reached at [jim@sammplat.wa.org](mailto:jim@sammplat.wa.org) or 425-392-6256, ext. 217.

### **Water and sewer extension (SE Pine Lake Road and 224th Place SE):**

In conjunction with the city's extension of Issaquah Pine Lake Road westward from the new park-and-ride, the District is extending water and sewer mains along the new road. Project manager Kyle Wong can be reached at [kyle@sammplat.wa.org](mailto:kyle@sammplat.wa.org) or 425-392-6256, ext. 203.

# Improving the permit process

## City Council makes customer service a top priority

As part of a continuing emphasis on good customer service, the city's permitting process has undergone significant improvements in recent months. One notable change is the requirement that applicants make an appointment to submit their materials.

"This lets us tell an applicant ahead of time what he needs to bring in, and lets us manage our work flow better," said Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur. "The end result is a quicker turnaround time for our customers."

The city is also making a special effort to understand the needs of its customers so additional improvements can be made. That, combined with the addition of more permit center staff, should allow the city to handle a growing demand for permits.

"We're always looking for good ideas from residents, developers and other applicants," Yazici said. "Good service is one of the council's highest priorities."



*Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur on the job at City Hall.*

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

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

### December

#### Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006

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

#### Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006

Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish City Hall - Reception Area*

#### Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006

Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish City Hall*

#### Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006

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

#### Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006

Town Center Committee/Property Owners' Forum Mtg., 6:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish City Hall*

#### Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006

Samm. Youth Board Mtg., 6-7:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish Library*

#### Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006

Arts Commission Meeting, 7-8 p.m.  
*Location TBA*

#### Monday, Dec. 25, 2006

Christmas  
*City offices closed*

### January

#### Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007

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

#### Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007

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

#### Thursday, Jan. 11- Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007

City Council Retreat  
*Location TBD*

#### Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007

Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish City Hall*

#### Monday, Jan. 15, 2007

Martin Luther King Day  
*City Offices Closed*

#### Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007

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

#### Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg., 6-7:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish Library*

Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
*Sammamish City Hall*

## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Michele Petitti*  
Mayor



*Mark Cross*  
Deputy Mayor



*Jack Barry*  
Councilmember



*Lee Felling*  
Councilmember



*Don Gerend*  
Councilmember



*Kathleen Huckabay*  
Councilmember



*Nancy Whitten*  
Councilmember



## Winter in Sammamish



*Issaquah-Pine Lake Road the morning after the big Nov. 27 snowfall.*

### City of Sammamish Offices

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Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Kamuron Gurol	Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard	Financial Svcs Director
Pete Butkus	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Svcs Director
Steve Hartwig	City Engineer
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
John Murphy	Fire Chief
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



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