



# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 61

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

## Seven-year fire deal extension City continues with Eastside Fire & Rescue

Noting that fire service in the city is excellent, and the cost of starting a Sammamish fire department would bump prices up 10 to 15 percent, City Manager Ben Yazici expressed satisfaction with the City Council's decision to renew a contract with Eastside Fire and Rescue.

"This new seven-year contract gives us a lot of predictability," Yazici said. "We know what we're getting in services and we have some control over costs through 2014.

"Deputy Mayor Lee Felling and Councilmember Jack Barry did the heavy lifting during this long negotiation. As members of the Eastside Fire and Rescue Board, they put in

See FIRE SERVICE, pg. 2

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*Dancing to the music during Summer Nights in the Park 2005.*

## Music and Shakespeare return

If you don't trust the calendar, maybe the guitar riffs and loud British accents emanating from Pine Lake Park will convince you – summer is here!

Starting Thursday, July 12, the summer concert schedule will begin with Shambala, a band that does a Three Dog Night tribute. Then on Saturday, July 21, "Shakespeare in the Park" returns with the Wooden O Theater's staging of "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

"We have eight Thursday evening concerts and two Saturday evening Shakespeare performances," said Lynne Handlos, the city's recreation coordinator. "This is the seventh year

the city has provided 'Summer Nights in the Park,' and we think attendance is just going to keep growing."

Pine Lake Park welcomes picnickers at 5 p.m., with the concerts starting at 6:30 p.m. and the Shakespeare performances beginning at 7 p.m. The city also sponsors two "Kids First" events at Beaver Lake Lodge. For a look at the full summer entertainment schedule, please look at page 8.

"I think we averaged between 1,200 and 1,500 people at our events last year," Handlos said. "Who knows how many more will join the fun this year."

The summer concerts are sponsored by Plateau Jewelers.



Mark Cross  
Mayor

Although we officially became a city way back in the last century (1999), and the tangible benefits of incorporation are all around us – 228th, new sports fields, Sammamish Commons, etc. – we still have a very long to-do list.

But the crowded project pipeline isn't a burden; it's exciting. Those of us who live in Sammamish are privileged to be part of the generation that will build and protect our community.

As an example, the city is constructing what is known as the South Pine Lake Route, a series of improvements that will add bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and generally enhance the corridor south of Pine Lake. It's a good

project for Sammamish: It will improve our ability to get around town, but places the emphasis on non-motorized transportation, a priority that guards our connection to the environment and helps us enjoy the natural surroundings we were blessed with.

Evans Creek Preserve is another piece of the puzzle, another example of how the plateau is continuing to grow its character and develop real texture. The preserve, 178 acres of city-owned land just north of the city limits, needs your input so we can make the right choices. The parks department has scheduled numerous public meetings this year to fully capture the community's feedback.

As with all city projects, I hope you will make your wishes known during these windows of opportunity. It's very satisfying, for both council and

staff, to fulfill your vision. But we need your help to do that. Please go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)), and read this monthly newsletter to keep yourself abreast of all opportunities to speak your mind.

Some of those opportunities are linked to major projects like the improvement of 244th Avenue and the East Lake Sammamish Parkway, major corridors that lead north to State Route 202. Others may relate to short chunks of sidewalk, or other small improvements in your neighborhoods.

But the important thing is to get involved and be part of the effort – and part of the generation that will build and protect Sammamish!

**FIRE SERVICE, cont. from pg. 1**

hundreds of hours of work, coordinated with staff, and helped produce a solid deal for the residents of Sammamish. They deserve a lot of credit.”

Eastside Fire and Rescue is a regional consortium comprised of Sammamish, Issaquah, North Bend, Fire District 10 and Fire District 38. Last year, the city paid \$4.6 million for its fire services from the consortium. Sammamish, with two members on the eight-member Eastside Fire and Rescue Board (Felling and Barry, currently), will help set the annual budget for the consortium over the next seven years. Based on past experience, Yazici expects salaries, benefits and other rising costs to lift the budget figure 3 to 4 percent annually, on average.

The current contract expires on December 31, 2007. The newly approved seven-year extension begins Jan. 1, 2008.



*Keeping things spiffy at Fire Station #82.*

# Thanks for helping on the 4th of July!

## *City expresses appreciation to sponsors and volunteers*

The city's first-ever "Fourth on the Plateau" celebration, a mixture of fun, food and fireworks in Sammamish Commons, was a joint effort.

The city supplied the direction, hired professionals set off the fireworks, and the community provided the spirit and energy.

"Our sponsors and volunteers were the key to making this a broad-based community event," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Our thanks go out to each and every one of them, and we look forward to engaging their help again as this event gets bigger and bigger in the future."

It's estimated more than a hundred residents volunteered their time to greet fellow residents, monitor parking, and help with booth duties and other

responsibilities.

Sponsors who provided financial or other forms of support included:

- Plateau Jewelers
- TLC Academy
- Rhonda Newton, DDS
- YMCA
- Kara Kids
- Party Carousel
- Impact Studio Pro
- Edward Jones Investments: Jana Williams, Kris Schilperoort, Cate Victorino, James Battistoni and Steve Bennett
- Salon Rebecca
- Sammamish Kiwanis
- Sammamish Chamber of Commerce
- Northstone Mortgage
- Columbia Distributing

- Puget Sound Energy
- Allied Waste
- Whole Foods
- 4X4 Council
- Sammamish Review

"We'd also like to thank the vendors who made the kids area so much fun," said Yazici. "Skyhawks Sports Camps, 19 Sports, Girl Scouts USA of Sammamish, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs really helped make it a great day for kids."

The city plans to make the "Fourth on the Plateau" a yearly event that will draw the community together at Sammamish Commons.

"With the continued support of sponsors, volunteers and residents, this should turn into a great Sammamish tradition," Yazici said.

## Affordable housing in the Town Center

During the first of four summer forums intended to guide and inform the Town Center planning effort, residents heard four panelists discuss affordable housing in Sammamish on June 14.

The panelists, from Habitat for Humanity, St. Andrew's Housing Group, Cam-West Development and Lorig Associates, discussed and showed pictures of affordable housing units they've developed in other communities. The City Council, as part of its preferred alternative decision on the Town Center, has directed staff and consultants to develop appropriate affordable housing policies and implementation mechanisms.

"The Town Center offers a real opportunity to provide a spectrum of housing choices," Michael Matthias, the city's project manager for the Town Center, said. "The council wants to give teachers, police, firefighters and other vital contributors to the community the opportunity to live in Sammamish."

At press time, a public forum on "environment and sustainability" was scheduled for June 26, with additional forums on "community facilities" and "design standards" planned for July 12 and July 24 respectively. For more information on the forums, please go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on "Town Center."



*Multi-family housing units in Woodinville.*

# Open garage doors make burglars smile

## *Sammamish residents are easy pickings for out-of-town thieves*

It doesn't take a criminal genius to make out like a bandit in Sammamish. You just walk into an open garage, reach into an open car, and carry off laptops, iPods, purses and wallets.

"Way too many people leave their garage doors open," Detective Bill Albright says. "This is a safe city, but it's too easy for drive-by burglars to fill up their cars with your stuff."

Detective Andreas Kaltsounis agrees and says that in most cases there wouldn't be a burglary if the garage door was closed.

"Since the beginning of the year, we've only had two forced-entry burglaries at a residence," Kaltsounis said, "but we've had 29 open garage door cases."

The detectives say it appears most of the burglars are from out of town and are drawn to Sammamish because it's an affluent, residential community

where people feel safe.

"It is safe here," Albright said. "We don't have burglars breaking into homes and threatening people, but we do have a problem with people not taking appropriate precautions."



Albright remembers working the pre-dawn shift and coming across open garage doors.

"People would get pretty miffed

when we woke them up and told them to close their doors, but we had to look after their safety."

Kaltsounis has arrested some of the burglars, but says that isn't the solution.

"If we keep putting out the welcome mat, there will always be somebody new cruising through town," Kaltsounis said. "The best way to stop this is to close garage doors and not leave your valuables in plain sight in your car."

The detectives also recommend keeping a list of serial numbers for items that burglars might find attractive.

"That makes it easier to check pawn shops and other places when we try to recover stolen items," Kaltsounis said. "Besides closing doors, that's another way residents can help us help them."

# Issaquah to start roundabout construction at bottom of Southeast 43rd in mid-July

## *Construction will affect traffic until early October*

At press time, the work hours had not yet been set, but it appears the intersection of S.E. 43rd Way and East Lake Sammamish Parkway will be constricted during daytime hours as Issaquah builds a large, multi-lane roundabout at that location.

The project, scheduled to start in mid-July and wrap up by early October, is likely to narrow the intersection and connected roadways to three lanes dur-

ing parts of the day.

Issaquah has hired KBA Construction Management of Bellevue to oversee the project, but a specific construction contractor had not yet been chosen as this newsletter went to press.

According to a 2004 traffic study, a roundabout at the location will move traffic more quickly than an improved signalized intersection. The study

also indicates the roundabout will be safer.

The roundabout will cost \$1.8 million, most of which will be paid by Mallard Bay, a lakeside residential development at the bottom of S.E. 43rd Way.

For more information, go to the city of Issaquah website at [www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=1337](http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=1337).

# Park projects moving forward with community input

The city's ambitious effort this year to gather public input on park improvements is well underway. Initial meetings on East Sammamish Park and the Evans Creek Preserve have already taken place, and the first meeting on Pine Lake Park is scheduled for July 25.

"Our goal is to gather as much information from the community as possible," Parks and Recreation Director Jessi Richardson said. "These meetings will ensure that residents have a strong voice in this process."

At East Sammamish Park, the city is considering adding new features and realigning existing uses. At Evans Creek Preserve, public input will help formulate a long-term strategy for the 178 acres of city-owned land just north of the city limits. And shoreline and dock improvements are being considered at Pine Lake Park.

In the early meetings, residents have expressed concerns about noise, access, and parking, among other things. More information on future meetings is available at 425-295-0585 or by checking the event calendar on the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).



## Upcoming meetings (Partial list):

- July 9 - East Sammamish Park, meeting #2
- July 18 - Evans Creek Preserve, meeting #2
- July 25 - Pine Lake Park, meeting #1
- Aug. 20 - East Sammamish Park, meeting #3
- Aug. 29 - Pine Lake Park, meeting #2

**(All meetings at City Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)**

## Kicking off "National Night Out" on Aug. 7

As part of National Night Out, a community-wide event that brings neighbors, police and firefighters together, the Sammamish Police Department is holding a kick-off event next to City Hall at Sammamish Commons, 801 228th Ave. S.E., on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Among other things, the event will feature the Guardian One helicopter, police and fire vehicles, "Jones the bomb dog," and free hot dogs.

There will also be information about the block watch and false alarm program, bicycle and pet safety, domestic violence, and the Sammamish Police Explorer program.

For more information about the National Night Out festivities, please call 425-295-0776.

## Want to be a volunteer firefighter or EMT?

Through the Eastside Fire and Rescue volunteer programs, there are spots open for people who want firefighter and EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) training. Those interested are asked to go to [www.eastsidevolunteer.org](http://www.eastsidevolunteer.org) for application materials and additional information.

David Misakian, the volunteer program manager, says the organization is looking for individuals over 18 years of age who are interested in front line experience.

"Once they're trained, volunteers will put in about 20 hours a month," Misakian said. "It's a great way to serve the community and become part of something bigger than yourself."

Dates have not been nailed down yet, but an EMT academy will be scheduled for the fall and a firefighter's academy will take place next spring.

## 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 is expected to begin as early as spring 2008. The construction contract is 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:** In May the city issued a SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Notice of Application for this project. In June the city issued a "Determination of Nonsignificance and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document." Later this summer the City Council is scheduled to approve a final design contract. 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 the east side only. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or

425-295-0561.

**228th Ave. NE Walkway:** This \$2.6 million project was substantially completed in May, creating a safe pedestrian connection between NE 12th Place and NE 25th Way. THANK YOU for your patience during the construction of this project! In response to



many recent inquiries: An overlay of the roadway was not included in this project because it was funded with non-motorized transportation funds. The City Council has approved funding for the overlay and the replacement of a temporary asphalt walkway with a 400-foot concrete sidewalk. These projects will likely be completed this summer. The ultimate location of the sidewalk is further to the west and will require a retaining wall and additional right of way to construct. Since we are

currently beyond the winter planting season, landscaping in the planter strips will be completed this fall. 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 a Draft Wetland Mitigation Plan is being prepared for impacts caused by road widening. Construction is expected to begin August 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 substantially completed in May. Only minor landscaping and punch list items remain. Recently completed work includes the modification of the SE 29th St / 228th Ave SE intersection. Left turns are now 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 improve safety and 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 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

# Parks Director wins Citation of Merit

Jessi Richardson, the city's parks and recreation director, recently became the youngest person to ever receive the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA) "Professional Citation of Merit."

Praised for her "full throttle" approach to professional challenges and her wide-ranging contributions to WRPA, Richardson received the award from Brit Kramer, the association's executive director, at the May 15 City Council meeting.

"It was great to see Jessi recognized by her peers," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're very happy to have such a well-respected professional heading up our parks and rec department."

Richardson, who has a masters degree in public administration from Seattle University and joined the city late last year, previously worked as executive director of the Si View Metropolitan Park District.



*Jessi Richardson (right) accepts the Citation of Merit Award from Brit Kramer of the Washington Recreation and Park Association and Mayor Mark Cross at a recent City Council*

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

### July

**Tuesday, Jul. 3, 2007**

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

City Hall

**Wednesday, Jul. 4, 2007**

*4th of July, All day*

*City offices closed*

*Fourth on the Plateau, 6-10:30 p.m.*

City Hall

**Monday, Jul. 9, 2007**

*East Sammamish Park - Hopes, Dreams & Fears, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

City Hall

**Tuesday, Jul. 10, 2007**

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

City Hall

**Wednesday, Jul. 11, 2007**

*Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

**Monday, Jul. 16, 2007**

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

City Hall

**Tuesday, Jul. 17, 2007**

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

City Hall

**Monday, Jul. 30, 2007**

*Neighborhood Connections Public Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m.*

City Hall

### August

**Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007**

*Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30-9 p.m.*

City Hall

*(No City Council or Planning Commission meetings are scheduled for August.)*

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

# 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:

## Shakespeare:

- July 12 - Shambala
- July 19 - Portage Bay Big Band
- July 26 - Freddy Pink
- Aug. 2 - Locust Street Taxi
- Aug. 9 - 3D
- Aug. 16 - Nathan Chance
- Aug. 23 - Samm. Symphony
- Aug. 30 - Andy O
- Picnicking begins at 5 p.m.
- Music begins at 6:30 p.m.

- July 21 - The Merry Wives of Windsor
- July 28 - The Merchant of Venice
- 7-8:30 p.m.

## “Kids First” Noontime series:

- July 24 - Rene Bibaud,  
Professional Jump roper
- Aug. 21 - Charlie Williams  
The Noise Guy
- Noon at Beaver Lake Lodge

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

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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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