

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 64

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Sammamish Commons Grand Opening

Although it's been in use for some time, most notably during the "Fourth on the Plateau" celebration, Sammamish Commons will have its official coming out party on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Billed as a "Grand Opening," the multi-layered event will feature an official ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. right next to City Hall. But there will be much, much more.

At 10 a.m., the Commons will receive some special attention when volunteers plant spring-flowering bulbs in some of the natural areas of the civic and park complex.

Then, at noon, a free barbeque lunch will be served to any and all members of the community who attend the special event.

At 1 p.m., in addition to the rib-

See COMMONS, pg. 2



An accident involving a car and bicycle last year at the intersection of East Lake Sammamish Parkway and Inglewood Hill Road.

Parkway design report headed to City Council

With over \$13 million slated to be spent on the first phase of improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway – construction is planned for 2009 – the City Council will receive a Design Report at a study session next month.

The report, which will give the council another chance to review and consider the project's proposed design, will also cover the second and third phases:

- In 2012 – Phase 2 - \$12 Million
- In 2024 – Phase 3 - \$15 million

Almost \$18 million of the improvement costs will be funded by developer impact fees. (Both budget and impact fee figures are measured in 2007 dollars.)

The three phases will stretch from Inglewood Hill Road up to the northern city limits at 187th Avenue Northeast, covering approximately three miles of roadway. Each phase will cover roughly one mile of the parkway,

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Mark Cross
Mayor

Hard to believe it's already fall. It's time to prepare the house for winter, and prepare ourselves for bad weather and other emergencies.

So let's take a trip down memory lane together and remember last winter. Not only did we have a snowstorm timed perfectly ahead of the evening commute for maximum impact, we also had a really severe windstorm.

Remember how it felt to be in the dark without the emergency items you should have purchased at the store? Or how it felt being unable to find the items you did buy? My list always starts with candles because they solve the light problem and create a great atmosphere that seems to dull the pain of a power outage.

The city is preparing for winter as well. We have worked with our public

works staff, Eastside Fire and Rescue, the Civilian Emergency Response Team and the Sheriff's office to be ready. The council has approved the purchase of additional communications gear and other supplies for winter. Part of our plan calls for installing new Ham radios in each fire station.

More creatively, we are also working on an AM radio system like you use for getting weather reports going over the mountain passes. That will allow all our residents and those surrounding the city to tune in to the radio for up-to-date emergency information. When we get the system operational, we will alert you through our website and monthly newsletter.

If you are having trouble remembering how difficult it was last winter, turn out your lights and start looking for that candle. That should make it easier to make that list of supplies that you should have on hand. You should

also keep your cell phones charged, and track the weather when you know storms are a possibility.

Have a household plan. If people are stuck at school or work, do you know where they will go? Have all of your emergency phone numbers in your cell phone or with you on paper. For myself, I hope this year I'll be smart enough to use an hour or two of vacation time and leave early from work if it's going to snow.

Finally, weather is not the only sudden large emergency that we could have. The ground is known to shake here in the Pacific Northwest. Any preparations you make for bad weather events count towards overall emergency preparedness and that is a good thing. Enjoy the fall, but be prepared for winter.

COMMONS, cont. from pg. 1

bon cutting, attendees will see the unveiling of the City Hall sculpture, a piece created by Debbie Young entitled "Confluence."

As all this is happening, the Arts Commission Arts Fair will be going on inside City Hall. The fair will run both Saturday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.) and Sunday (1-6 p.m.).

"It should be a nice, relaxing event," said City Manager Ben Yazici. "We hope many of those who enjoyed coming here on the Fourth of July will come back and enjoy the Commons again."

Sammamish Commons, 30 acres located in the geographical center of the city, was designed to serve as a "gathering place" for the community. Among other things, it features a public plaza, skate park, sports meadow, picnic shelter, and trails and play areas. In addition to City Hall, there is also room for other potential buildings such as a library or community center.



A walking trail leads to a picnic shelter at Sammamish Commons.

Homecoming parade Oct. 5

The annual Skyline High School homecoming parade will reduce traffic to two lanes along a portion of 228th Avenue between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 5. Access from driveways and roads on the east side of 228th Avenue, from Southeast 24th Street to Southeast 10th Street, will also be limited.

The parade, which begins at 5 p.m., will travel north from Discovery Elementary to Skyline High School. Traffic control will be provided by the police department and city staff.

For more information on the event and related traffic impacts, please call the city's Colleen Rupke at 425-295-0565.



A past Skyline High School Homecoming Parade along 228th.

PARKWAY, cont. from pg. 1

with the first phase beginning at the intersection with Inglewood Hill Road.

Among other things, the proposed improvements will include curb, gutter and sidewalk on the east side, a planter strip between the sidewalk and road, bike lanes in both directions, and a turn lane and median strip between the two travel lanes. That design could change, however, based on community input and the council's review.

"Nothing is in stone, yet," City Manager Ben Yazici said, "except that we need to make this road much, much safer. We have a lot of accidents along the Parkway, especially at or near Inglewood Hill Road, where the first phase will start."

A number of residents disagree with each other on the parkway plan. Some want the road expanded a lot more, to four or even five lanes, while others counter that the proposed plan

goes too far.

"Our traffic models indicate the proposed plan has great promise," Yazici says. "With future improvements to Sahalee Way and 244th Avenue, we'll have three improved city routes that will connect to the state's expansion of SR 202 and SR 520 up north.

"Over time, that should give us better traffic flow, and a much better distribution of the transportation burden across the community."

In addition to improving safety and traffic flow, Yazici says the proposed improvements also have other payoffs.

"The median strip and planter strip will reduce runoff, calm traffic, and give pedestrians a sense of safety," Yazici said. "The other thing to remember is that the parkway is a gateway to our city. This is going to make it a lot more attractive."

The improvements to 244th Avenue, which include construction of an 800-foot connection between

existing segments of the road, have a completion target of December 2008. When finished, residents on the east side of town will for the first time be able to head straight north to SR 202 instead of wending their way east to 228th Avenue or the parkway. The first improvements to Sahalee Way are scheduled for 2022.

But better traffic flow along the parkway won't have to wait until all the city improvements are made. The state's progress up north, especially the construction of a flyover ramp at the intersection of SR 202 and SR 520, should help significantly in the short term. The flyover, which the city lobbied for extensively in Olympia, is slated for completion early next year.

The Design Report will be available to the public on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) in early November. The City Council will review the report at a study session on Nov. 13.

Short but sweet: S.E. Pine Lake Road



The ceremonial scissors were in action once again as (from left) Project Manager Jeff Brauns, Councilmembers Don Gerend and Nancy Whitten, Mayor Mark Cross, and Councilmember Jack Barry do the honors at S.E. Pine Lake Road.

When the new park-and-ride lot opened along 228th Avenue last year, drivers approaching from the west had no easy way to get there. But now, courtesy of a new 600-foot road, it takes about 15 seconds to reach the lot from S.E. 30th Street at the south end of Pine Lake.

“This is a very good example of how better ‘connectivity’ can make life easier for Sammamish residents,” Project Manager Jeff Brauns said. “They used to have to take a long, serpentine route to reach the park-and-ride.”

And, if drivers want to skip the lot and go straight to 228th, they just keep driving east on the road Sound Transit installed next to the park-and-ride.

The city road features, among other things, one lane in each direction, a median strip with turn pockets, and a porous sidewalk on the south side. Design, right-of-way and construction costs totaled \$1.8 million.

City receives national budget award

Sammamish has received the “Distinguished Budget Presentation Award” for its 2007/2008 biennial budget.

The award, which recognizes clear and effective budget presentation, was bestowed by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

“We sometimes kid the finance department about how many awards they seem to win, but it’s always great to be recognized,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Our finance crew deserves a lot of credit.”

To win the award, a budget must excel as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Award recipients are praised for providing an “excellent example for other governments throughout North America.”



Michael Bailey (second from right) presents the budget award to the city on behalf of the Government Finance Officers Association. Accepting (from left) are Deputy Finance Director Aaron Antin, Director Lyman Howard, and Councilmember Lee Felling.

Council, Parks Commission review park plans

Plans for improving Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, and the Evans Creek Preserve were presented at a joint meeting of the City Council and Parks Commission on Sept. 11.

The proposal for Pine Lake Park includes a renovation of the dock, better protection for shoreline trees, and improved access for people with disabilities.

At East Sammamish Park, plans call for a new children's spray park, expansion and better drainage for the existing soccer field, and better pedestrian access to make the park more "neighborhood friendly."

The plan for Evans Creek Preserve, 179 acres of open space just north of the city limits, was quite modest, featuring trails and picnic facilities.

For more information, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "Projects" tab at the upper right of the home page.



City Councilmember Michele Petitti (left) and Parks Commissioners Pauline Cantor, Mary Doerrer, Hank Klein, John Rossi and Lynn Rehn discuss the park improvements.

Sammamish detective recognized

High-profile ID theft investigations earn him federal training

Andreas Kaltsounis, a detective with the Sammamish Police Department since 2004, enjoys his work.

Over the past two years, three cases he helped investigate have led to federal prosecutions for fraud and identity theft. Two of the cases resulted in 5-year prison terms; the third case, involving seven co-conspirators, hasn't wrapped up yet.

"The beauty of fraud cases is that there's almost always a paper trail," Kaltsounis said. "It's very satisfying to follow the trail and find creative ways to identify the bad guys."

Police Chief Brad Thompson says Kaltsounis's recent invitation to a Department of Justice identity theft seminar in South Carolina was very

unusual.

"Assistant United States Attorneys from around the country were told they could bring one investigator with them to South Carolina," Thompson said. "Normally, it's a federal investigator, not a local police detective.

"But Andreas has really distinguished himself up here on the plateau, and in his collaborative work throughout the Puget Sound. He's outstanding."

Kaltsounis's love of investigation comes in very handy in Sammamish. With its affluent and relaxed neighborhoods, Sammamish is fertile territory for out-of-town fraud artists who pilfer mailboxes, enter parked cars, and walk into open garages.

"We have very little violent crime in Sammamish," Thompson said, "but we do have our share of identity theft."

The federal training Kaltsounis received focused on the latest trends in identity theft, and the best ways to support successful prosecutions.

"Investigators need to dig up the right kind of evidence so they can really help prosecutors make their case," Kaltsounis said. "That was one of the main things we learned more about."

Detective Kaltsounis, who is also an attorney, has been a police officer since 1999.

This isn't the first time he's been recognized. In 2005, he was named the King County Sheriff's Department's "Detective of the Year."

Project updates:

More information available online at:

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and

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 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 or 425-295-0561. Project webpage: 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 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 or 425-295-0563.

Low impact development ordinance recommended

An ordinance designed to encourage low impact development, or LID, will go from the Planning Commission to the City Council next month.

At a Nov. 13 study session, the council will review the Planning Commission's recommendation of an incentive-based ordinance that will encourage developers to voluntarily adopt environmentally friendly practices.

LID focuses, in part, on improv-

ing infiltration, groundwater recharge, and stormwater runoff techniques.

"Developers could be allowed to build extra units on their land if they use LID techniques," Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. "Or maybe they could spend a bit less on the roads inside their development."

The Planning Commission drew heavily on input from technical experts,

developers, and environmentalists to craft the proposed ordinance.

"These LID techniques have been used in public developments," Gurol said. "And now, we believe the proposed ordinance will encourage private developers to do the same."

The council is planning to hold its own hearings on the ordinance. If approved, the ordinance may pass in late 2007 or early 2008.

Nightmare at Beaver Lake 2007

For seven hideous nights, from Oct. 25th through Halloween, the Nightmare at Beaver Lake returns to Sammamish.

Family-friendly frights begin at 7 p.m. for a mere \$9; full-on terror begins at 8 p.m. for only \$10. Bring a can of food to donate and you save \$1 on your ticket.

"There's something disturbing in the woods of Sammamish. A hunger that is never satisfied ... a fear that grows larger with every heartbeat."

- From the **Nightmare** website -



Visit the Nightmare.....or the Nightmare will visit you!

First spearheaded by the Rotary Club in 2004, the event has grown each year, drawing more than 8,000 trembling souls in 2007. If you would like to help out with the big event, go to volunteers@nightmareatbeaverlake.com. For more general information, please visit www.nightmareatbeaverlake.com.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

October

Tuesday, Oct. 2

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

Thursday, Oct. 4

Plan. Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

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

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30-9 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 15

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

Arts Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

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

Thursday, Oct. 18

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

Sammamish Library

November

Thursday, Nov. 1

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

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

Monday, Nov. 12

Veteran's Day, city offices closed

Tuesday, Nov. 13

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

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30-9 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

Sammamish Library

Monday, Nov. 19

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

Arts Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

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

Thursday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Day, city offices closed

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

Happy Birthday Sammamish!!



Rocky Macleod, a volunteer for the city, cuts the birthday cake as dignitaries, volunteers and other residents look on during the city's celebration of its eighth birthday on Aug. 31 at City Hall. The city of Sammamish incorporated as a city in 1999.

City of Sammamish Offices
801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Mark Cross, Mayor
mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Lee Felling, Deputy Mayor
lfelling@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Jack Barry, Councilmember
jbarry@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Don Gerend, Councilmember
dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember
khuckabay@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Michele Petitti, Councilmember
mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ben Yazici	City Manager
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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