



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 49

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2006

Town Center brainstorm

Residents offer ideas at design workshop

A couple of things are clear after Sammamish residents gave up their Saturday morning on June 24 to help design the new Town Center.

One, different people want different things.

Two, throwing ideas on the table and thinking out loud is a very valuable exercise.

“We’ve been gathering public input in many ways,” Project Manager Cristina Van Valkenburgh said. “This design workshop gave us an excellent cross-section of additional ideas.”

Participants have also raised a lot of questions. What level of density should be assumed? How much retail should be included? How many

See **TOWN CENTER**, pg. 4



Staff will move in to new City Hall late this month

After six years in a cramped, expensive storefront, city staffers will move into their new City Hall in late July.

To accommodate the move, the current and new City Hall will both be closed from Thursday, July 27, through Monday, July 31. The city will be back open for business in its new quarters on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

“This is a watershed moment for our community,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The monthly \$18,000 lease payment for the storefront will go away, and the residents of Sammamish will be able to do business in their own building.”

The new City Hall, which will also house the police department, is part of a 30-acre park and civic complex now under construction at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Eighth Street, just west of Skyline High School.

The complex, to be called Sammamish Commons, is budgeted for \$19.1 million. With its trails, play areas, skateboard park, public plaza and many other amenities, the Commons will serve as a focal point and gathering place for the community.

See **CITY HALL**, pg. 4

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Today my mayor's message is being typed on a laptop computer while I sit on my deck in the sunshine and watch my horses graze in our pasture. It's quite the ideal way to work.



*Mayor
Michele Petitti*

My little dog, Tootsie, and I recently visited Pine Lake Park. (She was on a leash, by the way!) As we enjoyed our walk, I witnessed the broad range of benefits parks and open space can provide to community residents.

We encountered a woman si-

lently practicing some Tai Chi, a grandmother pushing a baby on a swing, a family eating a picnic, and three little boys pretending to run the bases on the baseball diamond – all while a handful of dockers tossed their fishing lines into the lake to snag a trout.

As we continue to expand our range of recreational choices, I hope you'll be patient and thoughtful if you're one of several hundred residents who'll be contacted by phone this month and asked about parks, trails, open space – and the best way to fund them! We need to know what you think.

There are several options if we want to build and maintain new facilities faster than our normal cash flow allows. Among other things, residents could choose to pay for a park bond by raising property taxes for a finite

period of time. Or, the city could raise the REET – a real estate excise tax paid when people sell their homes.

We'll also ask phone survey respondents how ambitious they want the city to be. Should Sammamish build and maintain a lot of new facilities, a moderate number, or just a few?

These are important questions. As our city becomes more dense, it will be even more important to have good "green spaces" – and activity centers like an aquatic facility or teen center.

So, if you get a call asking you to take a few minutes to answer our park survey, I hope you'll express your preferences. We really want to please you and build places you will be proud to use and enjoy.

Happy Trails

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

244th Open House

With the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the 244th Avenue Improvements Project now available, the city is holding an Open House on Thursday, July 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 S.E. Eighth St.

Residents are invited to review the DEIS, ask questions of city staff and project designers, and provide comments. All comments on the DEIS are due by 5 p.m., July 26, 2006.

Copies of the DEIS can also be reviewed, or purchased, at City Hall, 486 228th Ave. N.E. Comment forms are also available at City Hall.

This project proposes, in part, to build an 800-foot connection between existing segments of 244th Avenue. The project, which will also improve the existing segments of 244th Avenue, will stretch from Southeast Eighth Street to Northeast Eighth Street.

More information on the project is available on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/244thNE.

Impact fee review continues into fall

The Planning Commission will extend its review of transportation impact fees into the early fall before passing on recommendations to the City Council.

A new ordinance adjusting the fees could double or triple the current fee of \$7,000 for a single-family home. Builders pay the transportation impact fees to the city to offset the cost of new roads needed to serve new growth.

"We've received a lot of comments on the proposed ordinance from both residents and developers," Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. "Most of the critical comments have focused on how the fees are derived and their impact on affordability. The city appreciates the input, and thinks it will lead to a better ordinance."

At press time, the Planning Commission was scheduled to pass on a separate parks impact fee recommendation to the council on July 6. The new \$2,681 per single-family home fee will offset the cost of new park facilities.

2006 Summer Concerts underway

Tony LaStella and the Gumbah's, playing everything from Sinatra to pop music, were scheduled to kick off this year's "Summer Nights in the Park" concert series on July 6.

The eight musical concerts, which will run every Thursday evening through Aug. 24, are free and open to the public at Pine Lake Park. They are sponsored by Plateau Jewelers.

Other summer entertainment includes Shakespeare by the Wooden O Theater, and the "Kids First" program, sponsored by Kiwanis International. **(For a complete listing of the summer events, please see page 8.)**

"This is our sixth year of entertainment in the parks," Recreation Coordinator Lynne Handlos said. "We have such big crowds, it feels like everyone in Sammamish has attended."

"If you haven't, though, come out and enjoy a fun community atmosphere."



Youngsters dance to the music in Pine Lake Park last summer.



Councilmember Lee Felling discusses plan with a resident.

Residents review 228th walkway plan

A major walkway project along 228th Avenue Northeast is scheduled to begin construction this summer. Interested residents had a chance to review plans for the project at an Open House on June 14 at Samantha Smith Elementary.

The walkway, three quarters of a mile long, will stretch from Northeast 12th Place to Northeast 25th Way on the west side of 228th Avenue. The finished walkway and bike lanes, which will enhance pedestrian safety and promote non-motorized transportation, will include curb and gutter, and a planter strip between the sidewalk and the street.

For more information on the project, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/228thWalk.aspx on the city website.

TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1

people will live live in Sammamish 20 years from now? How much will private developers be willing to build?

“All of those answers aren’t available yet,” Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. “That’s part of the challenge at this stage, working on a puzzle when some of the pieces are missing.

“But some of those answers will become clearer as we solidify what our residents want.”

Putting residents with divergent views at the same workshop table is one step in that direction.

“The more they share ideas and perspectives, the sooner we’ll get to a plan that will satisfy the greatest number of people,” Gurol said. “Through-out this very challenging process, we want residents talking to other residents. That’s one of the city’s primary goals.”

The Town Center planning area is about 240 acres in size, roughly cen-

tered over the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street. It will be anchored at the southern end by Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre park and civic complex that will include a new City Hall. Sammamish Commons is scheduled to open this summer.

The City Council’s adopted vision for the Town Center, which provides a broad outline for the current planning effort, calls for, among other things:

- A central gathering place
- Bikeways and pedestrian trails
- Public and private open spaces
- A range of commercial, recreational, cultural, educational and personal services
- A variety of housing types
- Preservation of the natural setting
- Low-impact development techniques

A volunteer Town Center Committee appointed by the City Council in March is charged with ensuring that the planning effort follows the council’s adopted vision. The city is also holding a number of community meetings and property owner fo-

*See the
Town Center
preliminary
alternatives*

July 13, 4-8 p.m.

*Sammamish Plateau
Water & Sewer Dist.
1510 228th Ave. S.E.*

runs to elicit ideas and feedback.

“We are listening carefully to all of our residents,” Gurol said, “even though many of them want very different outcomes.

“We need to listen to them, because there is no preordained Town Center plan. The ultimate result is still very much in play.”

For more information, please go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/TownCenter.aspx, or contact Cristina Van Valkenburgh (425-836-7971, cvanvalkenburgh@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

CITY HALL, cont. from pg. 1

“It’s in the geographical center of our city,” Yazici said. “Over time, we believe it will become the heart of our community.”

The new City Hall will have three levels: a 20,000-square-foot underground parking garage, and then two floors of working space totalling approximately 38,000 square feet.

“When our residents do business or have meetings at City Hall, they’re finally going to have appropriate conference rooms and counter space,” Yazici said. “It’s going to make all our processes more efficient.”

At press time, the new phone numbers for City Hall were not available. They will be posted on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) as soon as possible, along with other information about the new City Hall.



WE’RE MOVING!

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED:

- **Thursday, July 27**
- **Friday, July 28**
- **Monday, July 31**

**We’ll open for business again on
Tuesday, August 1, 2006**

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075

Visiting other Town Centers

Bus tour provides city with valuable frame of reference

It wasn't fancy – box lunches and a bus ride – but a recent tour of new town centers in the area was plenty illuminating.

As they drove through Kirkland, Juanita, Mill Creek, Redmond, Mercer Island and the Lakemont section of Bellevue on June 2, city officials and residents alike caught clear glimpses of what the Sammamish Town Center might want to borrow – or reject.

“I think the bus tour was a big success,” Town Center Project Manager Cristina Van Valkenburgh said. “It gave everyone something real to look at and generated a broad range of responses.”

The bus riders included members of the Town Center Committee, Planning Commission, City Council and city staff. Several members of the public were also on board. City managers and other officials along the bus tour



The bus tour group stops and talks in Juanita Village, a new, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use neighborhood north of downtown Kirkland.

spoke at length with their Sammamish visitors about the challenges of building a successful Town Center. Parking, density, pedestrian-friendly design and the complexity of public-private partnerships were just some of the topics addressed.

“They made it clear that success depends a lot on patience, give-and-take, and a prolonged period of hard

work,” Van Valkenburgh said. “If we want to have a town center that really works for Sammamish, I think everyone who was on that bus realizes it's going to take a lot of commitment.”

For more information on the bus tour, visit the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/TownCenter.aspx.



Boarding the bus to visit town centers.



A new streetscape on Mercer Island.

City builds field at Skyline High School



Looking west across Skyline High School property.

Construction began late last month on the Community Sports Field at Skyline High School, a synthetic turf, multi-purpose facility that aims to replicate the success of a similar field that opened in January at Eastlake High School.

The \$2.5 million field, built by the city in partnership with the Issaquah School District, is expected to open for use in October or November. The construction contract went to Ohno Construction, the same company that built the Eastlake field.

With lights for evening use, the field will accommodate soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball and a variety of other uses. The field will be available to students and non-students alike, with the city scheduling the field for use during non-school hours. More information is available at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SHSField.aspx.

Parks and recreation: *Do residents want additional facilities built faster?*

A random phone survey is in the works to measure how willing Sammamish residents would be to pay for a faster pace of park and recreational facility construction. The survey, which at press time was scheduled for July, will likely explore other issues with residents as well, such as:

- What kind of facilities do you want?
- How ambitious should the construction plan be?
- Should the expense be covered by a voter-approved bond?
- Should the expense be covered by increasing the REET, a Real Estate Excise Tax paid by the seller when a home is sold?
- Would you be willing to approve a levy to fund increased maintenance and operations costs?

At press time, the survey questions were still being formulated. In addition to the statistically valid, random phone survey, the city plans to put many of the same questions on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) so all residents can express their opinion.



In past community surveys, the majority of respondents have expressed a general willingness to pay for more parks. The new survey will take a much more detailed look at the issue.

Take care during bicycle season

Every summer, people of all ages pull their bikes out of winter storage and take to the roads. While there are dedicated commuters who ride year around, bicycle usage peaks during our traditional summer vacation months.

That means drivers and riders alike need to be extra careful. Those of you in cars should:

- Be alert. From the front or rear, a cyclist's narrow profile can make them difficult to see.

- Give riders a brake and plenty of room when you're sharing a traffic lane with them. Many roads don't have bike lanes or paved shoulders.

- Never use a bike lane as a turning lane for your car. This is illegal and very dangerous.

- Make sure you signal all

turns, and don't cut off a cyclist coming up on your right.

- Never use a bike lane as streetside parking.

There are plenty of safety tips for cyclists, as well. Bike riders should:



- Always wear an approved bike helmet. Head injuries are the leading cause of fatal injuries to cyclists.

- Always wear brightly colored or reflective clothing. This will make you much easier to see in the clutter of traffic.

- Remember that cyclists have all the rights and responsibilities of a vehicle driver.

- Always obey stop signs and posted speed limits.

- Never wear headphones. They block out the sound of nearby vehicles.

Summer is traditionally the season for vacations and family fun. But if we take a moment to consider the importance of bike safety, we can also make it the season of Bicycle Awareness.

Have a great summer!

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

- "Kids First" Noontime Series, Noon - 1 pm
Beaver Lake Lodge

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, July 13, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

- 244th Avenue Project Draft EIS Open House, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

- Town Center Open House, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Saturday, July 15, 2006

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 17, 2006

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm (Joint meeting with Town Center Committee)

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

- Arts Commission Meeting, 7 - 8 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, July 20, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 22, 2006

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 24, 2006

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

- Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (City Council, Planning Commission & Town Center Committee)

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, July 27, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

AUGUST

Thursday, Aug. 3, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2006

- "Kids First" Noontime Series, Noon - 1 pm
Beaver Lake Lodge

Thursday, Aug. 10, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

(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.

The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 228th Avenue NE.

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



Concert Series: sponsored by Plateau Jewelers

(6:30-8 p.m., Pine Lake Park)

Thu. July 6 - Tony LaStella and the Goombah's (Sinatra to pop)

Thu. July 13 - Shambala (Three Dog Night tribute)

Thu. July 20 - Dr. Funk (Funk and Groove)

Thu. July 27 - Timeless Soul (Motown)

Thu. Aug. 3 - The Statics (Classic Northwest Rock)

Thu. Aug. 10 - Radio Flyers (70/80/90's rock)

Thu. Aug. 17 - The Rockafellers (Pink Floyd and more)

Thu. Aug. 24 - Sammamish Symphony (Anchors Away)

Shakespeare in the Park: by the Wooden O Theater

(6:30-8 p.m., Pine Lake Park)

Sat. July 15 - Hamlet

Sat. July 22 - As You Like It

Kids First!: sponsored by Kiwanis International

(Noon, Beaver Lake Lodge)

Tue. July 11 - Jeff Evans, Magician

Tue. Aug. 8 - Eric Herman, Music

City of Sammamish Offices

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Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber	Public Works Director
Kamuron Gurof	Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard	Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling	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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