

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 169

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

Round-table meeting on city's new growth

CITY WILL TALK AND LISTEN
AT PUBLIC SESSION ON SEPT. 8

Just as they did before incorporation in 1999, many Sammamish residents are raising concerns, along with a few protest signs, over the accelerating growth they see all around them.

Whether its new concrete structures along 228th Avenue, or the clearing of trees along Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, the development spawned by an improving economy has people asking: "What's going on, and is there some way to stop it?"

To address those questions, and provide appropriate background information on the regulatory framework cities must follow, a public meeting will be held at City Hall on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.

Residents will have the opportunity to hear a presentation and then discuss the issues in small groups at several round-tables. The table discussions will be led by City Council and Planning Commission members.

As a resident himself, City Manager Lyman Howard says he understands the questions, and the upset.

See GROWTH, pg. 5



Virtual Town Hall!

ON SELECTED TOPICS, SPEAK TO THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME — OR PHONE!

When important questions come before the City Council, a lot of familiar faces step up to the podium and offer public comment.

But now, the city is reaching out to those with unfamiliar faces, to those who may be too busy—or too shy—to step in front of the Council and the television cameras that record official

city proceedings.

"We really value the comments we hear from the podium, but we know this is a community full of very busy families," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "We also want to hear from residents who don't have the time to drive to City Hall. We want to expand

See VIRTUAL, pg. 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Page 2

TOWN CENTER

Story on page 3

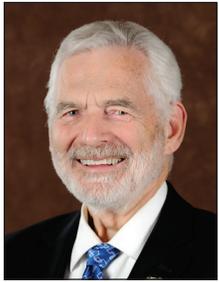
SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Story on page 6

The times, they are a-changin'...

This title from a Bob Dylan song of over a half century ago would seem to apply emphatically now to Central Puget Sound. During the “great recession” it wasn’t noticed much, but now that the regional economy is thriving, we see new evidence of change all around us.

Yes, Sammamish is home for development projects, both residential around the city and mixed use in the Town Center. But our city is not alone in this phenomenon. All of our neighboring cities are having similar or even more growth. The reality is that Western Washington is one of the fastest growing regions of the United States. Credit for this could be given to a good climate, incredible natural features and dynamic companies. Central Puget Sound is projected to grow by one million more people in the next 25 years.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

So, where should these people reside? In 1990 the Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (GMA) and instructed counties and cities to contain growth within certain Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB). The cities of King County get together with the County periodically and allocate the expected growth, assigning targets of dwelling units and jobs that the cities should plan for through their Comprehensive Plans and zoning ordinances.

During the 17 years since our incorporation, Sammamish officials have gone to those meetings and lobbied for minimum targets, arguing that our geographic location is not amenable to rampant growth. We are at the edge of the UGB, we have Lake Sammamish to the West and have to go through Redmond or Issaquah to get to regional transportation corridors. As a result, we have been able to retain large areas of Sammamish zoned at R-1 (one house per acre), arguing that these areas have wetlands or other critical features that preclude higher densities. The GMA calls for minimum zoning density of R-4 (four houses per acre), but our areas of reduced density were approved. We also incorporated “net density”, which means that in the calculation of how many homes can be on a site, first all wetlands, critical areas, buffers and roads are subtracted out of the area, before applying the zoned density.

So, here are some statistics to show how our housing and jobs targets over the next 20-25 years, and the numbers planned for in Comp Plans (CP), compare to neighboring cities:

	Kirkland	Redmond	Sammamish	Issaquah	Snoqualmie	North Bend
Population	88,000	61,000	61,000	34,000	13,000	7,000
25 Year Target – Housing Units	7,208	8,404	4,640	6,670	537	415
Housing per City Comp Plan	8,361	11,500	4,640	6,670	2,126	2,331
Difference =	1,153	3,096	0	0	1,589	1,916
% CP is Above Housing Target	16%	37%	0%	0%	296%	462%
25 Year Target – Jobs	18,804	27,315	2,088	23,200	313	1,050
Jobs per City Comp Plan	22,435	42,000	2,088	23,200	2,733	7,092
Difference =	3,631	14,685	0	0	2,420	6,042
% CP is Above Jobs Target	19%	54%	0%	0%	773%	575%

Yes, we are seeing much new development throughout the region. In Sammamish we have also recently passed a tougher tree ordinance, are working on an Urban Forestry Plan this year, and will be holding a Round-Table conversation with you all on Thursday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m., at City Hall. See you there?



Our newsletter is in full color!

Good news! When the city asked for bids recently on its newsletter printing contract, the printers informed us that they would be willing to provide full-color photos for the same price as black and white. So, we hope you enjoy the change!

Staying up to date on the Town Center is easy!

As anybody traveling along 228th Avenue can tell you, the city's Town Center Plan is coming to life!

Located in the geographical center of Sammamish, the 240-acre planning area took a long time to get going due to the 2008 recession, but all that pent up economic energy is finally producing the mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly, community focal point residents envisioned during a broad-based public in-

put process.

To stay up to date on the progress of the Town center, here are two easy options:

- Watch this space in the newsletter every month for fresh, in-depth information.
- Go to www.sammamish.us. When the city's refreshed website debuts later this month, updates on the Town Center will be featured front and center!



*The Village at Sammamish Town Center
(Intersection of 228th Ave. and S.E. 4th St.)*

VIRTUAL, cont. from pg. 1

public comment on key issues so we can capture a more representative cross-section of our community."

To that end, the city will launch Virtual Town Hall, an online public-input tool that will debut with the city's revamped website (www.sammamish.us) in late July or early August.

Here are the basics:

- On the city website, Virtual Town Hall will pose a question such as: "Do you think the city Town Center should have a movie theater complex?" (This is a hypothetical question chosen for illustrative purposes only.)

- For every question, Virtual Town Hall will provide pertinent background information and context so residents can deliver informed opinions.

- The question will remain open for days or weeks, allowing residents to gather their thoughts and mull the opinions of other respondents before offering their own perspectives.

- Residents and city officials alike will be able to review the responses. Furthermore, everyone can see the geographical mapping of response patterns.

- Participants will be asked to register their name, physical address and email address the first time they

visit Virtual Town Hall. This ensures that the respondent is a city resident. This information is not shared with the public, government staff or any business interest. All personal information is strictly protected by the privacy policy of Peak Democracy, the non-partisan company that provides the online service.

- Names are only shown next to responses if participants make that choice. They are free to not disclose their names.

- People who don't want to register are funneled into an "unregistered" channel. Since there's no way to know if these respondents are residents, their opinions will be reviewed by city officials but won't appear on Virtual Town Hall.

- Virtual Town Hall offers a dozen topic types, including surveys, polls, interactive mapping exercises, and budgeting tools.

- On most topics, only one response per person is allowed. This prevents domination by "loud and persistent" voices.

"We've vetted this tool very carefully," Communications

Manager Tim Larson said.

"Since the personal information of all registrants is kept private, we hope a lot of our residents will register on Virtual Town Hall and really broaden the spectrum of public comment we receive on important community questions."

For more information on Virtual Town Hall, go to the city website at www.sammamish.us.



Walking in the park? Tell the City Council what you think about a selected topic.

Cascadia Rising: City activates emergency operations center

On June 7, as part of Cascadia Rising, a four-day regional emergency exercise, the city activated its ham radio stations inside City Hall and tested communications with “info hubs” elsewhere in the city.

Organized and set up by the Sammamish Citizen Corps Council (SCCC), the info hubs will be vital sources of communication if a big earthquake or some other disaster disrupts

normal communication within the city. With the help of those ham radios, the info hubs and City Hall successfully communicated during the June 7 exercise.

Over the course of the the full four days of Cascadia Rising, local, state, tribal and federal entities, along with some private-sector and non-governmental organizations, tested their ability to respond to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake.



The “info hub” at the Klabanie shopping center on June 7.



Ham radio volunteers at emergency operations center in City Hall.

Stormwater and sidewalk improvement project along Inglewood Hill Road will affect traffic for six months

Get ready to tap your brakes in July as you head downhill on Inglewood Hill Road.

The city, in partnership with Sammamish Plateau Water, will be installing, among other things, a water main replacement, new storm water pipe, new sidewalks, and water quality treatment infrastructure.

The work, which will affect traffic, is slated to continue through January 2017. Although one lane will always remain open, drivers should plan for traffic delays and consider alternative routes.

On most days, work along Inglewood Hill Road will take place be-

tween 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Efforts will be made to limit lane closures to the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Known officially as the “Inglewood Hill Stormwater Retrofit and Non-Motorized Improvement Project,” this major initiative will help with long-standing flooding and erosion issues, reduce the flow of contaminants into Lake Sammamish, and provide a much-needed, east-to-west sidewalk connection for pedestrians.

A portion of the project cost will be offset by two grants totaling \$1.1 million. The total project budget is \$5.9 million.

The work along Inglewood Hill Road will extend from 212th Avenue Northeast to East Lake Sammamish Parkway. Some minor work will also be done along 208th Avenue Northeast, 210th Avenue Northeast, 211th Avenue Northeast, 211th Place Northeast, 212th Avenue Northeast, and Northeast 15th Street. The sidewalk will be installed only on the north side of Inglewood Hill Road.

At press time, the work was slated to begin shortly after the July 4 holiday. For more information, contact Senior Stormwater Program Manager Tawni Dalziel at tdalziel@sammamish.us or 425-295-0567.

Central Washington University considers city building

MORE THAN 20 UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TAKE A LOOK AT THE OLD MARS HILL CHURCH

Based on the number of department heads, facility experts and academic chiefs who drove over from Ellensburg to meet with city officials, it would appear that Central Washington University (CWU) has a genuine interest in starting a satellite campus in Sammamish.

The June 6 meeting, held at the old Mars Hill Church (120 228th Ave. N.E.) where the city hopes to house an institution of higher learning, featured open discussions between City Councilmembers, city staff and more than twenty CWU representatives.

“It was a terrific experience,” City Manager

Lyman Howard said. “The more we talked, the more enthusiastic everyone seemed to get. The next step is for CWU to pursue its due diligence and see what obstacles might pop up. We know it’s going to take some time, but we’re moderately optimistic.”

The city purchased the two-story,

30,807-square-foot building and 22-acre parcel for \$6.1 million in May of 2015. With three high schools within walking distance, it’s hoped CWU, or another university or college, could offer conveniently located “running start” classes for the city’s students.

Continuing education for adults and regular college courses are also on the city’s wish list.

“When we took them on a tour of the building, most of the CWU folks seemed to think it would work just fine with some partitioning of rooms and other adjustments,” Howard said. “We’re continuing to work closely with them. If they decide to move forward, we’ll get into discussions about lease terms and all the other details.”



Mayor Don Gerend (right) converses with representatives from Central Washington University inside the old Mars Hill Church.

GROWTH, cont. from pg. 1

“Historically, people moved here to live in a peaceful forest next to a stream or lake,” Howard said. “But property owners have a right to derive economic value from their land, so houses started going up and they’re still going up. It’s a dilemma.”

This latest wave of development follows a long period of tepid growth linked to the economic collapse of 2008. But given that Sammamish has been designated as an “urban” area by the state’s Growth Management Act (GMA), it was only a matter of time before more density would come to the city.

“We hope this roundtable discussion will give everyone an opportunity to weigh in, learn, and make suggestions,” How-

ard said. “Growth was the issue that drove incorporation back in the 90’s, and it’s driving a lot of feelings again in 2016.”

One of the key features of the GMA is its imposition of the urban growth boundary. Inside the boundary, urban densities and infrastructure common to cities are required. Outside the boundary, the land is to remain rural. Sammamish is entirely urban, with the boundary running along the city’s eastern border.

“The idea is to build cities around appropriate infrastructure, and preserve farmland, forests and open space elsewhere,” Howard said. “The authors of the GMA didn’t want strip malls and cul de sacs spreading across the entire state.”

For more information on the GMA, go to www.sammamish.us.



The newly cleared Conner-Jarvis property as seen from Issaquah-Pine Lake Road

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Thursdays 6:30-8p
Pine Lake Park

- July 14 **Flashback Nation**
dance favorites
- July 21 **Shaggy Sweet**
pop/rock/blues
- July 28 **Borrowed Time**
music of Styx

KIDSFIRST!

Tuesdays 1-2p

- July 12 **Charlie Williams**
sound coach
on Commons Plaza
- July 19 **Mikey Mike**
science & nature music
at East Sammamish Park
- July 26 **Jeff Evans**
magician
on Commons Plaza

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Saturdays 7-8:45p
Klahanie Park

- July 16 **Hamlet**
July 23 **Love's Labour's Lost**

@SammamishEvents

S.E. Fourth St. will close on July 18

Originally scheduled to close immediately after the July 4 holiday, S.E. Fourth Street (just west of 228th Ave.) will now close on July 18. The road will remain closed for about three weeks as work crews install new water and sewer mains next to the new TRF Pacific mixed-use development.

City Hall Art Exhibit, July 12-Oct.5

Architectures II – David Allison

Artist Reception, July 21, 6 p.m., at City Hall



Ghosts of Autumn, 2012, by David Allison

Snake Hill Road project delayed

Due to right-of-way acquisition and permitting delays, the improvements to 212th Way Southeast (AKA Snake Hill Road), originally scheduled to begin this summer, have been delayed until late spring or early summer next year.

Pressure washing is fun....but please don't pollute our streams!

Please take steps to properly manage waste water when you break out your pressure washer. Chemicals, heavy metals and oils should not go down a storm drain. That takes pollutants directly to our lakes and streams. Please direct your wash water onto vegetation. And remember: "Only rain down the storm drain!"

All solicitors need city-issued card

Remember – if a door-to-door solicitor comes to your porch, they're obligated to show you a license upon request. Also, solicitation is prohibited if you've posted a "No solicitors" sign near your door.

If you think a solicitor is committing a violation, please call 206-296-3311 and make a report.

CITY CALENDAR

JULY

Monday, July 4

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

Tuesday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 6

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 7

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 9

-Sammamish Walks, 1-3 p.m.
Yellow Lake Klahanie

Tuesday, July 12

-David Allison Art Exhibit,
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
City Hall
-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
-City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, July 14

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Friday, July 15

-Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
City Hall

Saturday, July 16

-Shakespeare in the Park, 7-8:45 p.m.
Klahanie Park

Tuesday, July 19

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
East Sammamish Park
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, July 21

-Exhibiting Artist Reception
David Allison, 6-8 p.m.
City Hall
-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 23

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Sammamish Landing
-Shakespeare in the Park, 7-8:45 p.m.
Klahanie Park

Monday, July 25

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 26

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Wednesday, July 27

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, July 28

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 2

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Wednesday, Aug. 3

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 4

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Aug. 6

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Evans Creek Preserve

Tuesday, Aug. 9

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Klahanie Park

Wednesday, Aug. 10

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, Aug. 11

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, Aug. 16

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Wednesday, Aug. 17

-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, Aug. 18

-Concerts in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Aug. 20

-Sammamish Days, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Pine Lake Park
-Sammamish Nights, 6-10 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Tuesday, Aug. 23

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
East Sammamish Park

Wednesday, Aug. 24

-Sammamish Farmer's Market,
4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

Thursday, Aug. 25

-Concerts in the Park,
6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, Aug. 30

-KidsFirst!, 1-2 p.m.
Klahanie Park

Wednesday, Aug. 31

-Sammamish Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall

PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings and events at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.



801 - 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
REDMOND, WA
PERMIT NO.312

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend
Mayor*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Deputy Mayor*



*Tom Hornish
Councilmember*



*Kathy Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

“Best tasting drinking water in the County!”



Northeast Sammamish Water District

was ranked best in King County and second best in the entire pacific northwest region by the American Water Works Association.

“Our drinking water is of the highest quality and our top priority is protecting this precious resource,” said Paul Sentena, president of the water district’s board of commissioners.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

www.sammamish.us

- Don Gerend, Mayor**
dgerend@sammamish.us
- Ramiro Valderrama, Deputy Mayor**
rvalderrama@sammamish.us
- Tom Hornish, Councilmember**
thornish@sammamish.us
- Kathy Huckabay, Councilmember**
khuckabay@sammamish.us
- Bob Keller, Councilmember**
bkeller@sammamish.us
- Christie Malchow, Councilmember**
cmalchow@sammamish.us
- Tom Odell, Councilmember**
todell@sammamish.us

- Lyman Howard City Manager
- Jessi Bon Dep City Mgr, Parks & Rec Dir
- Chris Gianini Acting Finance Director
- Beth Goldberg Admin Services Director
- Steve Leniszewski Public Works Director
- Jeff Thomas Community Dev Director
- Melonie Anderson City Clerk
- Nathan Elledge Police Chief
- Jeff Clark Fire Chief
- Michael Kenyon City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr **Tim Larson**
425-295-0555, tlarson@sammamish.us