



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 50

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2006

Town Center alternatives

Three chosen for environmental impact review

The City Council has selected three Town Center alternatives to be studied for the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The selection was made at a July 25 meeting with the Planning Commission and Town Center Committee.

"The three alternatives contain a broad range of possibilities," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "So our community still has a lot of creative and interesting work to do before we adopt a Town Center plan."

Although the final plan will likely be a blend of the three options, for purposes of the environmental review,

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Amy Koehnen helps one of the city's first customers on opening day.

New City Hall is open

After seven years of expensive lease payments in a shopping center, Sammamish residents and city staffers finally have their own building – a new City Hall at 801 228th Avenue S.E.

As the new building opened for business on Aug. 1, the city stopped paying approximately \$18,000 a month in rent for a storefront and two trailers out in back. It was also a wave goodbye to overstuffed cubicles, cramped counter space and a glaring absence of meeting rooms for residents and staffers alike.

"Customer service has always been our top priority," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "The new City Hall

has the space and facilities we need to provide those services to our residents.

"As the City Manager, I'm also very happy that my staff will have a more efficient and professional environment. In the old space, we had to turn sideways to pass each other in the hall. It was like working in a submarine."

The city moved into its new building at the end of last month. To accommodate the move, both the old and new City Halls were closed from July 27 through July 31.

Set at a slight angle to 228th

See **CITY HALL**, page 3



Mayor
Michele Pettiti

A few weeks ago, when I attended a meeting of King County mayors, one of the topics of discussion was global warming. As you probably know, the United States did

not support the Kyoto Protocol, a global warming measure signed by 140 other countries. As a response to that, Seattle Mayor Greg Nichols offered a climate protection agreement for the mayors to sign. After considering the facts – the U.S., for example, with only 5 percent of the world's population, produces 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gases – I decided to sign.

That decision also got me to thinking about what our city, and our individual residents, could do to help. It's a fact of life that our everyday choices affect pollution levels. If we drive less, in more fuel-efficient cars, or use public transit, we can make a difference. The same holds true for

reducing our product use, and reusing and recycling those that do pass through our hands.

Our council has worked hard to understand the region's transportation problems and get more bus/transit options available for our citizens. That is one of the reasons we are supporting the "Transit Now" initiative proposed by Ron Sims that will be on the ballot this fall for your consideration.

We are adding sidewalks and bike lanes as fast as our budget will allow. Our goal is to create an efficient, attractive, walkable and bike-friendly community.

We are also considering taller buildings in our Town Center plan so we can preserve more open space and increase urban density to accommodate future growth.

Our region is expected to grow by 1.6 million people over the next 20 years. That means Sammamish could possibly double its population in that same time frame.

To reduce the traffic impacts of

that growth, we plan to add services and recreational options so you don't have to drive off the plateau for those needs. We want some commercial offices so Sammamish workers can have the option to work closer to home. And we want technology connections so our citizens can work from home.

On a personal level, I drive a big diesel Dodge truck. I use it often to tow my horses, so I need the power and size. But I've started using biodiesel fuel, which is available from the Grange in Issaquah. I've also talked several of my "horse friends" into switching to biodiesel for their big trucks, too. The performance is the same, plus now, instead of old-fashioned diesel fumes, we're enjoying the scent of French fries!

I hope you'll make your own commitment to reducing green house gases and global warming. I also hope you'll do it today – please don't wait

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

City revising road impact fee proposal

The city will hold a "stakeholder" meeting this month to discuss revisions to the proposed road impact fee ordinance. The measure will increase the amount of money builders pay the city to offset the cost of road construction triggered by new growth.

Developers, property owners and residents are all invited to attend the meeting on Monday, Aug. 21, 5:30-7 p.m., at the new City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E. More information on the issue is available by contacting Cristina Van Valkenburgh at cvanvalkenburgh@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

After gathering comments on the revisions, the proposed ordinance will go to the Planning Commission in September.

Art and essay contest Kiwanis and city ask students to mark opening of new City Hall

A display of essays and art pieces produced by Sammamish students will be featured at the new City Hall this summer. The submissions, finalists in a competition sponsored by the Kiwanis and the city, will address the following question: "What should the City of Sammamish look like in 25 years?"

The contest is open to all students who live or attend school in Sammamish. Submissions should be delivered to City Hall between Aug. 15 and Aug. 31. For full details, please go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "news" tab at the top of the home page. Winners will be honored at a City Hall reception and recognized on Sammamish 21 TV during a City Council meeting.

CITY HALL, cont. from pg. 1

Avenue, the new City Hall is just west of Skyline High School. The building, which will also house the police department, has approximately 38,000 square feet of working space and a 20,000-square-foot underground parking garage. Parking for the public is directly in front of City Hall, with access provided at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Eighth Street.

It's set in Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre park and civic complex still under construction. The remaining elements of the Commons, which include public spaces, trails, play areas, a skate park and many other amenities, will be completed later this year.

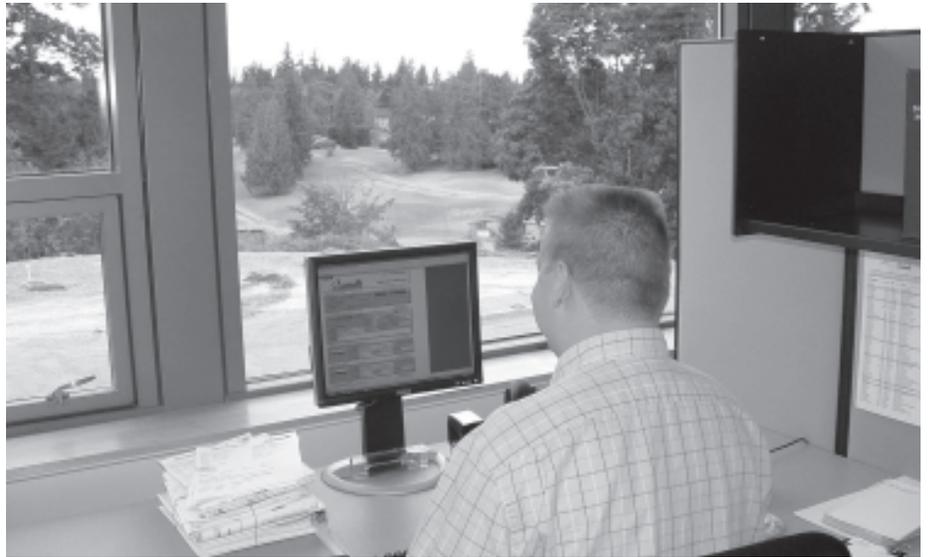
"This is exciting," Yazici said. "City Hall and the Sammamish Commons will give the community a focal point, a place where residents can conduct business, have fun, and build hometown memories."

New City Hall information:

Phone number: 425-295-0500

Address: 801 228th Ave. S.E.

Fax number: 425-295-0600



Senior Planner Evan Maxim works as construction continues in the background on the rest of Sammamish Commons.

Benefits of new City Hall are many



Amy Jeffery helps at the new permit counter.

Just inside the front door of the new City Hall, the City Council chambers are on the left, the police department is on the right, and, at the end of a spacious entry way, the City Hall reception desk beckons to its customers – the residents of Sammamish.

Now open for business, the brand-new building provides many advantages over the old, rented City Hall. Among those advantages:

- More counter and meeting room space
- A comfortable waiting area
- A self-help kiosk in the lobby (eventually, computers will also be available to customers in the lobby)
- Council Chambers at the same location as City Hall
- Better response time because most city employees are under one roof
- A more central location

All of these factors add up to better service," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "That's the most important thing."

Ebright Creek Park will open this year

A 12-acre neighborhood park in the western part of town, near the intersection of 212th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 13th Place, is scheduled for completion in November.

Ebright Creek Park, which will feature a play lawn, sports court, climbing rock, picnic area and children's play area, began construction in late May with a budget of \$3.5 million.

Originally scheduled to break ground in 2003, the project was delayed by objections to a combination baseball/soccer field at the park, a feature since eliminated. Among other things, nearby residents and others said the ballfield would create too much noise and traffic in the area.



Construction work is well underway at Ebright Creek Park.

MyBuildingPermit.com wins "gold" award

A set of pioneering online services developed by Sammamish and other eastside communities has earned the city a "Gold" Municipal Achievement Award from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). Sammamish received the award for MyBuildingPermit.com at the association's annual conference on June 21. The web-based service portal allows contractors to apply for, pay for, and receive multiple construction permits from 10 jurisdictions in a single on-line transaction.

"Several members of our staff made important contributions to the development and implementation of this system," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're very proud to be part of an innovation that saves time and money for residents, business

people and taxpayers."

Yazici said the city staffers who contributed included Jan Vogee, Lisa Werre, Kurt Aldworth, Amy Jeffery, Mark Schwarzwalter, Steve Belzak, Dawn Flores, Kimberlee McArthur and Devany Lunde.

"They've done great work," Yazici said. "I'm very happy their contributions have been recognized."

MyBuildingPermit.com can be accessed on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) by clicking eCityGov on the right side of the home page.

Sammamish is a member of the eCityGov Alliance, a nine-member consortium of eastside cities pursuing online innovations.

The other participating cities in the consortium are Issaquah, Snoqualmie, Bellevue, Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Woodinville.

The other cities in the consortium also received the "Gold" award from the Association of Washington Cities.



From the left, Lisa Werre, Kurt Aldworth, Amy Jeffery, Mark Schwarzwalter, Steve Belzak, Jan Vogee, and Dawn Flores.

TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1

the current alternatives are quite distinct.

Like all the options, Alternative #1 contains trails and open space, but features an emphasis on commercial and mixed-use development.

Alternative #2 features a small commercial village and much more modest overall development.

Alternative #3 features an emphasis on civic and cultural facilities along with some commercial and mixed-use elements.

Graphic representations of the alternatives, along with related materials, are available on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) by clicking the Town Center tab on the left side of the home page.

When it's finished in early 2007, the DEIS will undergo a thorough public review. At the end of that process, the City Council, Planning Commission and Town Center Committee will identify a preferred alternative.

The selected alternative will then be the focus of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) process. After a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the City Council will ultimately adopt a Town Center plan.

Between then and now, public meetings, Town Center Committee sessions, property owner forums and a va-



Residents review the Town Center alternatives with consultants and staff at a July 13 Open House.

riety of other opportunities for public input will be provided.

“This is a process that requires persistence, patience and good faith,” Yazici said. “I think our volunteers, residents, city staffers and elected officials are doing a great job of moving this forward.

“We should all be grateful to them. Their efforts are going to produce a great town center.”



Earlier versions of the three Town Center alternatives.

Fireworks persist on Fourth of July

New city ban on fireworks not observed by some

Considering it was the first Fourth of July that a city ban on fireworks took effect, residents might have expected a more peaceful Independence Day last month. But it appears the urge to celebrate with fireworks is still strong in Sammamish. City police responded to 20 fireworks calls on July 4.

“Instead of being punitive, we took an educational approach,” Sgt. Jerrell Wills said. “When we found people using fireworks, we issued a warning and handed out an information card explaining what the new rules are.”

Although it may not have seemed like it, the 20 fireworks calls this year are substantially lower than in past years. There were 59 fireworks calls in 2003, and 58 in 2004. No statistics on fireworks calls were collected in 2005.

“Fortunately, we didn’t have any reports of injuries or property damage this year,” Wills said. “That’s always good news.”

“We think next year will get better,” he said. “As people become more conscious of the ban, we think Fourth of July incidents will continue to decline.”



Sgt. Jerrell Wills

Plateau Notes:

Emergency training

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will start Sept. 12 in Sammamish. The once-a-week training sessions will last until late October.

For more information, contact Sammamishcitizencorps@hotmail.com.

Business recycling

A recycling event for Sammamish businesses is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 420 228th Ave. N.E. Cell phones, computers, fluorescent lights, toner cartridges and many other items are all welcome. Fees will be charged for some items. More information is available at 425-295-0515.

Permanent signal at 244th Ave. and SR 202

Beginning this month, the state will begin installing a permanent traffic signal at the intersection of State Route 202 and 244th Avenue Northeast.

The permanent signal will replace a temporary signal installed last year in response to a high accident rate at the intersection. In addition to the signal, the state will also install a right-hand turn lane for vehicles joining State Route 202 from 244th Avenue N.E.

Updates on the \$463,000 project are available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR202/244thAveNE/.

New bus service

King County Metro will add both a westbound and eastbound trip

on weekdays to Route 216 on Sept. 25. The bus will leave the Sammamish Park and Ride at 8:43 a.m., arriving at Fourth Avenue and Union in Seattle at 9:20 a.m. The extra return trip will arrive in Sammamish at 6:58 p.m.

Also on Sept. 25, Sound Transit will extend Route 554 all the way to the Sammamish Park and Ride. The two extra, weekday trips in the evening will start in Seattle and reach the Sammamish Park and Ride at 9 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

More information is available at <http://transit.metrokc.gov/> and <http://www.soundtransit.org/>.

Bus schedules are also available in the reception area of the new City Hall, located at 801 228th Avenue S.E.

Comprehensive plan amendments

Applications due in September

If you'd like to make an amendment to the city's comprehensive plan, your application should be submitted between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30. Applications will be reviewed through the public process and may be adopted by the City Council next summer.

For more information on the amendment process, please go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "permits" tab on the left side of the home page, then click on "land use applications" and "comprehensive plan amendment."

The previous comp plan amendment cycle ended last month when the city adopted a change which made Aldarra Farms and some territory east of 244th Avenue Northeast part of the city's Potential Annexation Area.

Parks and recreation survey on city website

A random phone survey conducted last month gathered answers on parks and recreation issues from approximately 400 city residents. Now, that same poll is available to the broader community on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).

In general terms, the survey asks how willing residents would be to pay for a faster pace of park and recreational facility construction, and what funding method they would prefer.

"We hope residents will take the time to answer the website poll," Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling said. "The phone poll will give us a statistically valid result, but we want to augment that with our website responses."



CITY HALL CALENDAR

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.

SEPTEMBER

- **Monday, Sep 4, 2006**
Labor Day
City offices closed
- **Tuesday, Sep 5, 2006**
City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Thursday, Sep 7, 2006**
Planning Commission Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Tuesday, Sep 12, 2006**
City Council Study Session
6:30-10 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Thursday, Sep 14, 2006**
Planning Commission Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Monday, Sep 18, 2006**
City Council Study Session
6:30-10 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Tuesday, Sep 19, 2006**
City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Wednesday, Sep 20, 2006**
Arts Commission Meeting, 7-8 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Thursday, Sep 21, 2006**
Planning Commission Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Monday, Sep 25, 2006**
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30-9 pm
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- **Thursday, Sep 28, 2006**
Planning Commission Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

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



Only two concerts left at Pine Lake Park!

The Rockafellers
(Pink Floyd and more)

Thursday, Aug. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.

Sammamish Symphony
(Anchors Away)

Thursday, Aug. 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

Concert Series: sponsored by Plateau Jewelers

City of Sammamish Offices

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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber	Public Works Director
Kamuron Guroi	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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