

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 74

CITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

## Voters to decide on additional parks funding

At press time, it appeared the residents of Sammamish will have a chance to vote in November on new funding for additional parks facilities and services.

The City Council was considering a two-part addition to the ballot:

1 - A \$19 million bond to build new recreational facilities.

2 - A property tax levy lift to pay for \$310,000 in annual programming and operation costs at the new facilities.

“Putting this on the ballot will let the residents decide an important issue,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “This vote, whichever way it goes, will put the power in their hands.”

The \$19 million bond would pay for the following:

- \$5 million to purchase the existing King County library for conversion and expansion into a youth and teen center. The city intends to partner with the Boys and Girls Club to operate the facility.
- \$3 million for Phase I development of Sammamish Landing, a waterfront

*See PARKS BOND, Page 2*

## The 4th was great!



*Three young patriots celebrate the Fourth on the Plateau at Sammamish Commons.*

Two years don't amount to a tradition, but the city's second "Fourth on the Plateau" celebration went a long way toward making fireworks an important and memorable part of life in Sammamish.

"After last year's success, to see even bigger crowds this 4th of July tells us that our community will be coming together this way for decades to come,"

City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It's a privilege to know that fifty years from now, our kids will be talking about the "good old days" at Sammamish Commons back on the 4th of July."

The event, funded largely by sponsors (see page 5), featured two bands,

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Lee Fellingge  
Mayor

It's summer – finally – and many of the things I like to do involve driving someplace distant. But, with gas at well over \$4 a gallon, I'm a bit reluctant. The good news is that there are a lot of

cool things to do right here in Sammamish. Here are some of my favorites:

Take family and friends to enjoy one of the free Concerts in Pine Lake Park on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. You can picnic, or enjoy a variety foods and ice cream on sale at the park. Trust me, it's a great time!

Take a walk or bike ride by the water on the East lake Sammamish Trail. Did you know that this is the rail bed of the former Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern that was built in 1888 and was going to be Seattle's link to the transcontinental railroad? As you move along the trail, imagine people eighty

years ago taking the steam train from Seattle for a day at Snoqualmie Falls on a warm summer day.

Each week, pick a different park to explore and just enjoy. How about Pine Lake Park? When was the last time you swam in a lake? Lifeguards are on duty from noon to 7 p.m. everyday in the summer.

In addition, you might consider East Sammamish Park, Beaver Lake Park (your pooch can frisk at the new dog park area), Northeast Sammamish Neighborhood Park, or our newest – Ebright Creek Park. Which is your favorite? Picnic shelters can be reserved and are free of charge.

Remember also that the Farmers Market is held each Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. until September 24. You can combine shopping next to City Hall with a walk around the paths of Sammamish Commons. After that walk you may feel less guilty about enjoying that baked goody from the market.

For the youngsters, the "Kids First"

Noontime Performance will feature a Pirate Rock Band on August 5 next to City Hall, and a magician on August 19 at Beaver Lake Lodge.

If you want to know your neighbors and public safety personnel a bit better, National Night Out on August 5 will feature a display of emergency equipment and personnel next to City Hall. Since the best control of crime comes from neighbors watching out for each other, you're also encouraged to organize your own neighborhood BBQs that same night.

And, if the weather doesn't cooperate one day, stop by the library and check out a book you might not ordinarily read, or maybe a classic movie you've always wanted to see.

Whatever you choose, I hope you save a little gas money, and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

## *PARKS BOND, cont. from pg. 1*

- park along Lake Sammamish.
- \$2.5 million to convert the existing grass athletic field at Pine Lake Middle School into an artificial, multipurpose field with lights.
- \$1.8 million for major improvements to East Sammamish Park (next to Margaret Mead Elementary).
- \$1.7 million for construction of the Beaver Lake Vicinity Trail, a path connecting Beaver Lake Park to Beaver Lake Preserve along West Beaver Lake Drive.
- \$4 million for land acquisition in the northeast quadrant of the city, which is not currently served by a neighborhood park.
- \$1 million for estimated park bond fees.  
"If the voters approve the bond, it

will be paid off over 20 years by raising property taxes 14 cents per thousand of assessed valuation," Yazici said. "That translates into \$84 per year, or \$7 per month, on a \$600,000 home. After 20 years that tax would go away.

"If the voters approve the levy lift to pay for the programming and operation of the new facilities, that will raise 4 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. That translates into \$24 per year, or \$2 per month, on a \$600,000 home. Since the cost of operations and maintenance will go on indefinitely, the levy lift will not be discontinued."

Although residents will cast separate votes on the bond and the maintenance levy lift, the two are linked. The city won't proceed with the bond unless the maintenance money is also approved.

## Park Bond Facts:

**Bond amount:** \$19 million      **Term of bond:** 20 years

**Paid for:** By a property tax increase of 14 cents per thousand of assessed valuation.

**On a \$600,000 home:** That would translate into \$84 per year. This additional tax would end after 20 years.

**Will pay for:** New parks and recreation facilities.

## Levy Lift Facts:

**Amount:** An increase of 4 cents per thousand of assessed valuation.

**On a \$600,000 home:** That would translate into \$24 per year. This tax would not end.

**Will pay for:** Programming and operation of new facilities.

## City Council thanks state for flyover ramp



*Paula Hammond  
Washington State Secretary of Transportation*

### SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION PAULA HAMMOND BRIEFS CITY

The new flyover ramp connecting State Route 202 to State Route 520 has helped Sammamish commuters, but it has also helped the state's secretary of transportation.

"It just makes your day when you hear how much an improvement like that can make a difference in people's daily commute and in their lives," Paula Hammond said, noting that she's received many positive emails about the new ramp.

In addition to receiving a city plaque recognizing her leadership and service to residents of Sammamish, Hammond also briefed the council on other major projects that will affect the city, most notably the replacement of the 520 bridge.

"I've known Secretary Hammond many, many years," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This was a great opportunity to thank her and her department for the very important regional improvements being made in our area."

## City recognized for new property tax calculator

In the coming years, there are several small areas just outside the city limits whose residents may be asked to vote on annexation to Sammamish.

To help them decide, the city has created a Potential Annexation Area property tax calculator that allows people to compare the amount of property tax they pay now to the amount they would pay as residents of the city.

This innovative online tool recently earned the city a "Certificate Of Distinction" from the Association of Washington Cities.

"It's a very useful tool," Lyman Howard, the city's finance director, said. "And I'm happy to report that in every circumstance, our potential residents would pay less if they annexed to the city."

In some cases, the difference could be substantial. Howard says some high-value homes could see their property taxes drop by around \$1,000.

The award-winning, property tax calculation tool is available on the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/PAATaxCalculator.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/PAATaxCalculator.aspx).



*Finance Director Lyman Howard (left) presents Mayor Lee Felling with the property tax calculator award from the Association of Washington Cities.*



*Clowns, kids and balloons in the children's play area.*



*The view from City Hall plaza.*

lots of food and sponsor booths, a children's play area, and, of course, a more than 30-minute pyrotechnic display.

"Again this year, we received a wave of positive response from residents after the event," the city's Sara Ninteman said. "But there are always things we can do better, and we're already thinking about next year.

"One thing's for sure, we need more of those big, inflatable bouncy structures for the kids. We had so many people in the family fun zone at the west end of the Commons, the lines got too long."

This year's attendance was estimated at between 12- and 14-thousand people, although city officials say that's strictly a guess. Last year's event drew an estimated 12-thousand.

Obviously, when the last crescendo of fireworks fades into the night sky, and thousands of people try to leave an event at exactly the same time, there are traffic challenges. This year's exit was complicated by an ambulance that blocked one of the southbound lanes on 228th Avenue for a time. The ambulance was providing assistance to a pedestrian who developed medical problems as they walked away from the event.

"Overall, I think things went really well again this year," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Mike Sauerwein, Sara Ninteman, Dawn Sanders, Joanna Puthoff and the other city staffers who pulled this off really deserve our thanks. They, along with our growing list of sponsors and our City Council, should be really proud of what they've added to the community."



*Staying cool on the Fourth of July!*

# FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU

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## “National Night Out” kickoff event at City Hall



*At last year’s National Night Out event at City Hall, the Guardian One Helicopter from the King County Sheriff’s Office dropped in for a visit.*

### SAFETY AND AWARENESS FAIR SLATED FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 5

Seeking to enhance community safety by building relationships between neighbors, the Sammamish Police Department is once again encouraging residents to hold outdoor barbecues and other neighborhood get-togethers on “National Night Out,” a nationwide program set for Aug. 5.

To get the ball rolling, a kickoff event will be held at the City Hall plaza between noon and 4:30 p.m. on that date. Among other things, residents will be able to meet public safety personnel, examine the armored personnel carrier used by the King County Sheriff’s Office, and check out several vintage police cars. A pirate rock band, Captain Bogg & Salty, will also be there to entertain the kids beginning at 3:30 p.m.

## Ham radio operators have a “field day” at City Hall

### AMATEUR RADIO RELAY LEAGUE TESTS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

In preparation for potential disasters that could knock out normal communication channels, a group of local ham radio operators recently put in two days of work to test their ability to contact other radio operators throughout North America.

The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) set up in the City Council chamber to test its skills and equipment on June 28 and 29. Over the two-day test, as many radio and text contacts as possible were established.

“It was a very successful exercise,” said Pete Butkus, the city’s emergency management chief. “Jon Bromberg and the rest of the ARRL members got in touch with a lot of people over a broad area.

“In the event of a disaster, we’ll use them to contact the state, and even federal officials in Washington, D.C.”



*Local ham radio operators gather at City Hall to contact other volunteer emergency personnel all around North America on June 28 and 29.*

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Teen Fest draws 1,000 kids BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB COSPONSORS EVENT

A combination of free food, live music and a professionally run skateboard competition drew a big crowd to the Sammamish Commons plaza shortly after summer vacation began.

“We handed out arm bands to the kids who arrived, and we gave out around 1,000,” the city’s Lynne Handlos said. “It was sunny and nice and lots of fun.”

The June 20 Teen Fest was co-sponsored by the city and the Boys and Girls Club. Based on the enthusiastic reception it received, the Teen Fest is expected to become an annual event.

The first-place skateboard winners were Payton Moriarity (beginner), Alex Koike (intermediate) and Jason Rodriguez (advanced). The “best trick” winners were James Starlin, Matt Fuller and Sky Siljeg. Music was provided by four bands, including Talbot Tangora and Seattle’s Blue Scholars.



*A skateboarder warms up for the Teen Fest competition.*

## CITY CALENDAR

### AUGUST

(No City Council meetings scheduled in August.)

#### *Tuesday, Aug. 5*

Nat'l Night Out & Kid's Performance,  
1-5 p.m., Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Wednesday, Aug. 6*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Thursday, Aug. 7*

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

#### *Wednesday, Aug. 13*

Business Recycling Collection Event  
Eastlake High School, 11 a.m. -4 p.m.  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Thursday, Aug. 14*

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

#### *Tuesday, Aug. 19*

Kid's First Noontime Series, 12-1 p.m.  
Beaver Lake Park

#### *Wednesday, Aug. 20*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Thursday, Aug. 21*

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

#### *Wednesday, Aug. 27*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

### SEPTEMBER

#### *Monday, Sep. 1*

Labor Day (City Hall closed)

#### *Tuesday, Sep. 2*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### *Wednesday, Sep. 3*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Thursday, Sep. 4*

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### *Tuesday, Sep. 9*

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

#### *Wednesday, Sep. 10*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

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

#### *Monday, Sep. 15*

City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.  
Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

#### *Tuesday, Sep. 16*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### *Wednesday, Sep. 17*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons Plaza

#### *Thursday, Sep. 18*

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### *Wednesday, Sep. 24*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Sammamish Commons

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

# SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Lee Felling  
Mayor



Don Gerend  
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry  
Councilmember



Mark Cross  
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember



Michele Petitti  
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

—Sponsored by Plateau Jewelers—



Aug. 7 - *Velvet Blues Revue (Blues/Classic Rock)*

Aug. 14 - *African All-Stars (Calypso/Reggae)*

Aug. 21 - *Shelley and the Curves (60s 70s 80s Dance)*

Aug. 28 - *Sammamish Symphony*

All concerts at Pine Lake Park except for Aug. 28 event, which will be at City Hall plaza. Picnickers welcome at 5 p.m. The music starts at 6:30 p.m.

## “KIDS FIRST” NOONTIME SERIES

Beaver Lake Lodge

Aug. 19 at Noon - Jeff Evans, Magician

## CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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John Cunningham

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Jessi Richardson

Parks & Rec Director

Mike Sauerwein

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Melonie Anderson

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