

# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 51

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

## Drive safely in school zones

### Police on the lookout for violators

With students back in the classroom, police cruisers have been quite visible near city schools this month.

Sgt. Jerrell Wills says the increased presence addresses the city's most frequent traffic complaint.

"We get a lot of reports of discourteous drivers who ignore speed limits and other traffic rules in school zones," Wills said. "Sometimes it's students, sometimes it's parents zooming in to pick up their kids."

In addition to focusing on problematic times and locations, police are working with their partners inside each school to identify frequent offenders.

See *SCHOOL ZONE*, pg. 2



*Some watch, some dance as the music plays at Pine Lake Park.*

## Summer concerts draw big crowds to city park

Since the concerts are free, there are no ticket sales figures to accurately gauge how many people attend the city's "Summer Nights in the Park" music series.

But Lynne Handlos, the city's recreation coordinator, has supervised the concerts for several years, and she thinks attendance averaged between 1,200 and 1,500 per concert in 2006.

"My sense is that this year's concerts set a record for total attendance," Handlos said. "It's been a great sum-

mer. The park has been jumping."

The eight concerts, all sponsored by Plateau Jewelers, were held on consecutive Thursday nights, starting on July 6 with Tony LaStella and the Goombah's, and ending on Aug. 24 with the Sammamish Symphony.

"These concerts continue to be great, family-oriented, community events," Handlos said. "Next year will be our seventh year of concerts. We'll have to work extra hard to make sure this tradition continues."

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I was just a toddler when Jim Ellis, founder of Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, began his regional community building in earnest. Fifty years later, the fruits of his vision have positively impacted my life, and will carry forward to our future generations.



Mayor  
Michele Petitti

We now have the I-90 corridor protected from sprawl. This 100-mile greenway embraces city parks and trails, wildlife habitat, working and protected forests, recreational opportunities galore, and tourism and historical attractions. A sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment is in full view.

This was a journey that took vision, cooperation and a commitment to getting things done.

On August 8, I represented our city at the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday tribute to Jim Ellis, held at the breathtaking Mountain Meadows farm in North Bend. The event was attended by over 500 regional leaders and long-time Jim Ellis supporters.

We heard about Jim's many endeavors, from the clean up of Lake Washington to the building of the Washington State Convention Center and Freeway Park to the creation of Metro and a regional transportation system. All these major initiatives were controversial at the time and tropped on by skeptics. After all, how could a municipal bond lawyer like Jim be trusted to have the public's best interest at heart?

I came away from the celebration in a reflective state and with the question: Who are the leaders of today with the vision and character to overcome that kind of skepticism? When I sent an email to the Execu-

tive Director thanking her for this wonderful event, I shared my thoughts. She said one of the goals of the event was to get us all thinking "big," like Jim did, and to work with one another and set the course for solutions to the problems we see. This attitude can start anywhere – at home, at work, and in our relationships with each other.

As a public servant, I have also come up against the skepticism that greeted Jim Ellis. Some people think: A do-gooder can't be genuine; there must be something in it for them.

As we create our own legacy in Sammamish, there will be differences of opinion and plenty of room for skepticism. But when you think of City Hall and your elected officials, I hope your thoughts will be colored by memories of Jim Ellis. Like him, we really do have your best interests in our hearts and minds.

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

### ***SCHOOL ZONE, cont. from pg. 1***

"When we see a violation, we pull the driver over," Wills said. "But we also get in touch with drivers who've been reported by others. We often send them a polite educational letter and ask them to please follow the rules."

Police hope this emphasis early in the fall term will lead to safer driving habits throughout the school year.

"We'll have our cruisers on the lookout in school zones all year, but we think this concentrated effort now should help a lot," Wills said.

People with comments or concerns should feel free to contact the Sammamish Police Department. Sgt. Wills can be reached at 425-295-0776 or [jerrell.wills@metrokc.gov](mailto:jerrell.wills@metrokc.gov).



*Ofc. Kelley Kinser checks vehicle speeds near Discovery Elementary.*

# Level of Service Community Survey

The City of Sammamish is conducting a statistically valid, random telephone survey on the city’s level of service in several categories. In addition to the phone survey, which will generate responses from approximately 400 households, the city is also inviting residents to complete this newsletter version of the survey.

If you would like to participate, please check the appropriate boxes and follow the free mailing instructions on the back panel of the survey sheet. Plans are also being made to put the survey on the city’s website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

<b>1. How important are the following services to you?</b>	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Fire protection.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency medical and ambulance services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection and patrol services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city streets.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city parks and trails.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building permit services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal control services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code enforcement services (These might include investigation of complaints and the imposition of penalties.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>2. Would you be willing to accept lower levels of service to minimize increases in taxes or fees for the following?</b>	No	Yes
Fire protection.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency medical and ambulance services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection and patrol services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city streets.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city parks and trails.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building permit services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal control services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>3. To maintain current levels of service, would you be willing to pay more in taxes and fees for the following?</b>	No	Yes
Fire protection.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency medical and ambulance services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	No	Yes
Police protection and patrol services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city streets.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of city parks and trails.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building permit services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal control services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code enforcement services (These might include investigation of complaints and the imposition of penalties.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The City of Sammamish is in the process of developing a plan for a new Town Center. The Town Center planning area is approximately located between Main Street on the north, Southeast Eighth Street on the south, 232nd Avenue on the east, and 222nd Place Southeast on the west. The 30-acre Sammamish Commons park and new City Hall are located in the southern portion of the planning area. Three alternatives are currently being studied and each represents a different area of emphasis, and each would play a different role within the city as a whole. The following two questions are intended to get your opinion as to that role.

**4. On a scale of one to four, with four meaning you “Strongly Agree” and one meaning you “Strongly Disagree,” what is your opinion on each of the following four statements?**

	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Somewhat Disagree	3 Somewhat Agree	4 Strongly Agree
The Town Center should be a destination, serving the entire City of Sammamish, offering a wide range of housing, commercial and recreational uses, family entertainment, cultural events, employment and services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Town Center should be a small-scale village with limited commercial services intended to serve only residential areas directly nearby.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Town Center should be a civic, cultural and recreational focal point for the city, with a limited amount of commercial use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Town Center area should stay as it is currently zoned: for single-family development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**5. How important is it to you to have the following services included in the Town Center?**

	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Shopping/Retail.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel/Tourist Activities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Youth and Family entertainment (ballfields, swimming pools, etc.)....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informal Recreation (such as parks).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Events.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment Opportunities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal and/or Professional Services.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide us with some contextual information:**

**6. With what perspective are you responding to this survey?**

Resident

Business

**7. How long have you lived/been located in Sammamish?**

0-2 years    3-6 years    7-10 years    Over 10 years





**8. How have city service levels changed since you moved to Sammamish?**

Improved    About the same    Declined    Don't know





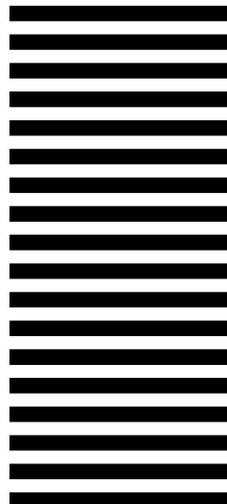
**9. How important are each of these elements to you in making Sammamish an attractive place to live?**

	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Small town atmosphere.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low taxes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good public services and facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location and access to jobs, regional amenities, etc.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of public schools.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good neighborhoods.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**10. Do you have any additional comments?**



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(Please fold along dotted line and tape pages together before mailing)

## Concrete strike slows Commons completion

### *Work stoppage created a significant delay*

Although staffers inside City Hall are issuing permits, planning parks, supervising road projects and doing all the other things city workers do, it may not appear that way from the outside.

The new City Hall sits in the middle of a construction site, a 30-acre park and civic complex that thirsted for new concrete pours while the strike was on. Although the strike was settled shortly before press time, it wasn't clear how quickly things would get back to normal.

"The good news is that our new City Hall is open and functioning well," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "The bad news is that the concrete strike pushed our completion date farther down the calendar. We hope to have a grand opening late this year or early next year."

## SE Pine Lake Road breaks ground



*Looking west from the 228th Avenue Park-and-Ride toward Southeast 30th Street at the southern end of Pine Lake. The new \$1.6 million road, which broke ground in August, is an extension of the road recently built along the north side of the Park-and-Ride.*

# CITY HALL CALENDAR

## 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 Mtg, 6:30-8:30 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Tuesday, Sep 12, 2006**

City Council Study Session with Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 - 10 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Thursday, Sep 14, 2006**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 pm  
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 Mtg, 6:30-8:30 pm  
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 Mtg, 6:30-8:30 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

## OCTOBER

- **Tuesday, Oct 3, 2006**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Tuesday, Oct 10, 2006**

City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Monday, Oct 16, 2006**

City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Tuesday, Oct 17, 2006**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Wednesday, Oct 18, 2006**

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 - 8 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

- **Monday, Oct 23, 2006**

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm  
City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

*NOTE: Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.*

## 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

## Public Works Director says goodbye

After four and half years with the city, including two and a half years as Public Works Director, Delora Kerber left last month for a new job in her home state of Oregon. She is now the Public Works Director in Wilsonville.

"Delora was direct, effective, and popular with her colleagues," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're going to miss her."

She'll be replaced by John Cunningham, whose place Kerber took when he left the city to pursue a consulting career in 2004.

"Delora did a great job taking John's place as Public Works Director in 2004," Yazici said. "Now, we feel very fortunate to have persuaded John to come back to Sammamish."



*Delora Kerber (left) wears a gift pair of flip-flops at her goodbye party. She once told a staffer that flip-flops were not appropriate in the work place. Joining her are Teresa Smith, Stacy Herman and Melonie Anderson.*

### City of Sammamish Offices

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#### **Mark Cross, Deputy Mayor**

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#### **Jack Barry, Councilmember**

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#### **Lee Felling, Councilmember**

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#### **Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember**

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#### **Nancy Whitten, Councilmember**

[nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us)

Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Kamuron Gurol	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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