

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 179

CITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

Should the city limit spending, or raise revenue?

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON FINANCES CONTINUES WITH VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Reflecting on the city's 18 years of financial health, City Manager Lyman Howard says there's no mystery to it. All you need is a series of fiscally conservative City Councils, and a disciplined commitment to long-term planning.

In pursuit of the latter, the city held a public "Roundtable on City Finances" on Thursday, April 27. Any and all residents were welcome to attend.

As a followup, the city will launch a Virtual Town Hall on the same topic beginning May 15. Residents interested in using the city's online, public input tool can access Virtual Town Hall by simply going to the city website at www.sammamish.us.

"We've always been financially healthy and we're going to remain that way," Howard said. "But it doesn't happen by accident. As we have in the past, we're going to look at the facts, consid-

See VIRTUAL, pg. 4



Morning drivers on Klahanie Drive N.E. (right) merge onto Issaquah-Fall City Road.

Issaquah-Fall City Road meeting #3

JUNE 1 UPDATE WILL INCLUDE PRELIMINARY DETOUR DISCUSSION

The start of construction is more than a year away, but some of the most important work on Issaquah-Fall City Road is being done right now.

And the city of Sammamish would like residents to help out – by looking at the design and some preliminary detour information – at the project's third public meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 6-8 p.m., at Pacific Cascade Middle School, 24635 S.E. Issaquah-Fall City Road.

"After weighing the public input we received from our first two meetings and our other public outreach efforts, the City Council selected the basic design," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "But we still need ongoing feedback from residents as we finalize all the details."

The road improvement project will stretch seven-tenths of a mile, from 242nd Ave. S.E. to Klahanie Drive S.E.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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DEVELOPMENT MAP

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RIG-A-PALOOZA!

Story on page 6

A Potpourri of Timely Topics

Candidates needed:

Sammamish will have four vacancies to fill on the City Council next year and it's time for you to consider stepping up to this noble calling.

The candidate filing period is May 15-19, the filing fee is \$102, and the details are available at the King County Elections website.

If you'd like to learn more about the rewards of service – okay, it's only \$850 a month, but you feel really good! – you should contact one of the current Councilmembers.

The state legislature at work:

They're actually working overtime since they couldn't get everything done during the regular session.

The financial pressure to provide full funding for K-12 education has once again resulted in the legislature looking into every nook and cranny for revenue.

In recent biennia, this has meant the taking of revenues previously allocated to cities and towns, making it tougher for cities to provide services to their citizens.

For Sammamish, that means we can expect only about \$1 million per year in state-shared liquor and criminal justice revenues.

Here are some items we've been pushing for in Olympia:

- Funding for a study of the State Route 202 corridor.
- An adjustment to the way the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) is calculated in connection with the Sound Transit 3 funding package.
- Retention of the Public Works Assistance Account, which provides

loans to cities at below market rates for infrastructure projects.

When Sammamish first incorporated, we borrowed \$10 million from this fund at half a percent interest to jump start our improvements to 228th Avenue. With more road projects ahead, we need to work hard to preserve this program.

Let's hope that our legislators are able to resolve their budget issues without doing further harm to city budgets.

Earth Day March for Science:

Just before the newsletter went to the typesetter (oops, that does date me, doesn't it), along came Earth Day – our 37th – and I joined my thesis advisor (UW Emeritus Prof. Paul Boynton)



and many other scientists in perhaps the most orderly – and rational! – protest march in Seattle history.

The original purpose of Earth Day, of course, was to support the environment, but I felt the marchers were expressing a broader concern – about the abuse of facts on the internet, the subversion of science by media factions, and a paradigm shift regarding appropriate requirements for scientific

consensus on specific topics.

Don't misunderstand – I regard science as a full contact sport, but if we're going to be clear headed about renewable energy, clean water and air, global warming, biodiversity, mass extinction, and the survival of the human race, the victor in this debate needs to win with facts, not fantasies.

That sentiment was quite apparent as we marched from Capitol Hill to the Science Center holding signs that said things like: "The good thing about Science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it"... "There is no Planet B"... "Raise Scientists, not Sea Level"... "Nurses use Science to Keep U healthy"... "Science promised us the Moon and delivered! On to Mars"... "The oceans are rising and so are we"... "Mathematicians for Equality"... "Science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom"... "Ignorance isn't Bliss"... and so on.

Along the way, you could hear chants from the marchers – "What do we want? Evidence-based science. When do we want it? After peer review." And, "When science and facts are under attack, what do we do? Fight back."

The fight to preserve proven scientific methods, and the great benefits they bring to people from all walks of life, will continue, of course. But we hope our peaceful, passionate – and funny – march helped the cause.

For me, the mood of the day was best captured by a single sign that said the following:

"We Don't Inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, We Borrow It from Our Children."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Head".

Huckabay, Odell won't seek reelection to Council

Two veteran City Councilmembers, both of whom served terms as mayor, have decided to leave City Hall at the end of this year.

Kathy Huckabay, elected to Sammamish's first City Council in 1999, has served throughout the city's existence, with the exception of a 4-year break beginning in 2010. Tom Odell, first elected in 2010, has served two four-year terms on the Council.



*Kathy Huckabay
Councilmember*

City Manager Lyman Howard says their commitment to public service and their broad and varied connections to the community will be difficult to replace.

"Kathy and Tom both did a great job of bringing the community's perspective into City Hall," Howard said. "When

residents expressed concerns to them, they made sure the city staff knew about it. We're going to miss them both."

With their departure, it's guaranteed that the City Council will have four new faces in 2018. Earlier this year, Mayor Don Gerend and Deputy Mayor Bob Keller also announced that they would not be running for reelection.

"We look forward to working with four new elected officials in January," Howard said. "Whoever our residents select in the November election, I hope they're ready to follow the example our departing foursome have set.

"As all of them could tell you, if you're going to enjoy your time on the Council, you'd better have your share of energy, intellectual curiosity and patience."



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

MEETING, cont. from pg. 1

It will widen the congested corridor that passes by Pacific Cascade Middle School to four lanes, and add curb, gutter, sidewalk, bike lanes and landscaping. Construction is expected to take two seasons, starting in the summer of 2018 and then wrapping up at the end of 2019.

A second phase, expected to begin in 2020, will extend improvements eastward to Issaquah-Beaver Lake Drive. The project cost for both phases is estimated at \$36 million.

During construction of the first phase, two lanes – one in each direction – will remain open. But given that the corridor is already very congested during the morning and evening commutes, and the construction won't help, a system of detours will need to be put in place.

"There's no getting around it, this is going to be a disruptive project,"

Howard said. "If there was another way to get the job done, we'd do it, but, realistically, I think the delays and detours are going to be a real test for everybody's patience."

A formal detour presentation will be offered at a separate public meeting later this summer, but next month's meeting on June 1 will get the conversation started with some preliminary detour ideas.

For comprehensive information on the Issaquah-Fall City Road Improvement Project, go to www.sammamish.us

and click through "government," "public works" and "current projects."

To receive email alerts about the project, go to www.sammamish.us and click on "Join our mailing list" in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.

Project Manager Sam Park is also available for your questions and comments at 425-295-0538 or spark@sammamish.us.



One of two public meetings held last year on Issaquah-Fall City Road.

Reminder: Don't set your recycling truck on fire...

Although we never thought we'd have to print this in the city newsletter, please take note: It's not considered wise to put a butane torch in your recycling bin.

The reason? It might set the recycling truck on fire, which is exactly what happened early last month, forcing a Republic Services driver to dump his flaming load near the



intersection of Southeast 23rd Street and 200th Avenue Southeast.

Presumably, this isn't a reminder that most of us need, but, out of an abundance of caution, here is some important information:

Butane torches and propane tanks are considered hazardous waste and should not be placed in your recycling bin. The best place to dispose of these dangerous containers is via King County's Wastemobile or at the hazardous waste drop-off location at Factoria Transfer Station, 13800 S.E. 32nd St, Bellevue.

Keep in mind that the proper disposal of paint is also very important. For a complete list of "What Goes Where," go to www.RepublicServicesNW.com and scroll down to "Sammamish" in the dropdown menu.

VIRTUAL, cont. from pg. 1

er the options, and make sensible plans with the help of our residents."

Thanks to accelerating residential growth, and its unpleasant companion – traffic congestion – there are some particularly important choices on the horizon.

"We've heard calls for more roads and the preservation of open space," Howard said. "But will those requests stand if they require the collection of more tax revenue? We're hoping to get more insight into that question through the Virtual Town Hall."

For the past eight years, the city has not taken the one percent annual increase in property tax revenue allowed by law, banking it for future use instead.

If residents decide the future is now, that banked capacity would produce \$1.6 million per year going forward. Another revenue option is a utility tax, which Sammamish, unlike most cities, does not impose. A new 2 percent utility tax would bring in \$2.2 million per year.

But Howard says new taxes don't have to be part of the picture.

"We can always keep our revenue steady, and adjust our infrastructure and other spending to match the available funds. We're not going into this conversation with a preconceived notion that taxes need to go up."

With plenty of community feedback in hand, the City Council will

PRO Plan Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, May 23,
6 p.m., at City Hall,
801 228th Ave. S.E.

PRO stands for
Parks, Recreation and Open
Space, and we need your
help with the plan!

Please join us as we
begin to craft a future
full of recreational
opportunities for all
Sammamish residents!

then hold a financial retreat on Thursday, June 29, 5-8 p.m., at City Hall. Residents are welcome to attend the retreat as well.

"Whether it's the roundtable, the Virtual Town Hall or the retreat, we hope our residents will take the opportunity to share their thoughts," Howard said. "There's no question that we're going to remain financially healthy. That's a given. But we'd like to know what path our residents would like us to take."

Correction:

As noted above, the financial retreat will be on June 29, 5-8 p.m. An earlier newsletter contained an incorrect time.

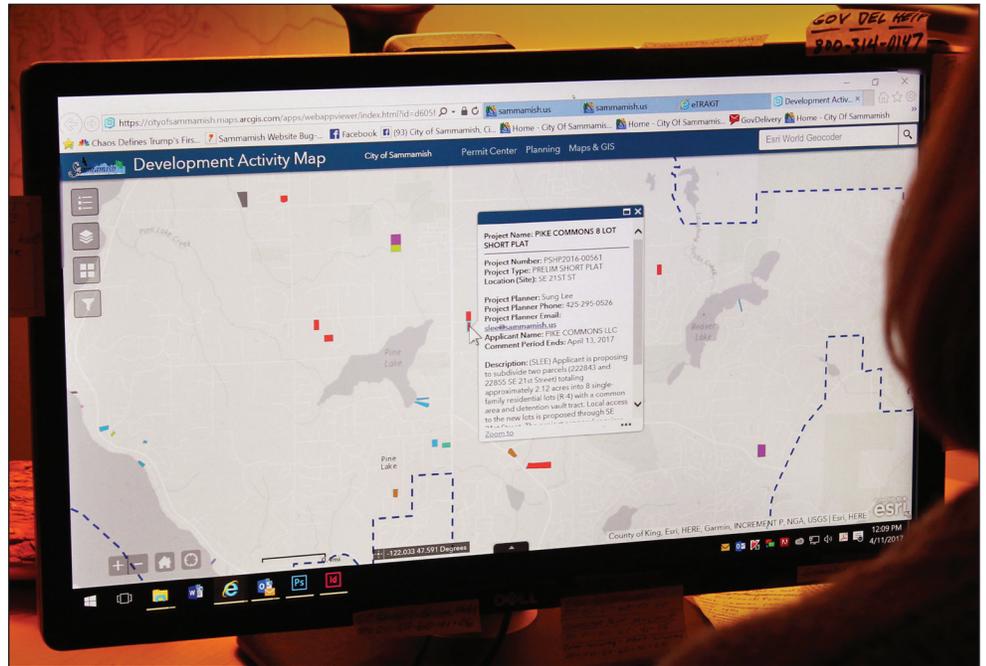
Much requested development map now on website

When big public notice signs appear on empty parcels, they serve to irritate some people twice.

Once because it usually means more homes are going up. And a second time because they can't read the information as they whiz by in their cars.

So, in response to numerous requests, the city now has a "development activity map" on its website (www.sammamish.us).

All you have to do is click on the development location – usually marked by a small, colored square or rectangle – and the pertinent information pops up: number of homes planned, status of the permit, name of the applicant, contact information for



Just click on the spot and permit information pops up.

assigned city staff, and so on.

"We've had a lot of requests for this," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "It came up at our public round table on growth, and during our Virtual Town Hall on the same topic.

"Now that we have it up and run-

ning, we hope people will check in regularly to keep themselves well informed."

To access the map, just click on "community development" under the government tab, and then go to the left-hand column and select "development activity map."

Regional stormwater for Town Center?

On April 3, staff from the Departments of Community Development and Public Works presented the City Council with preliminary options for regional stormwater facilities in Town Center.

Regional stormwater facilities are designed to detain and/or treat stormwater runoff from multiple projects, eliminating the need for each individual project to construct its own facility.

Regional facilities are often administered through city-sponsored programs, with developments providing financial assistance.

Staff presented conceptual design and location proposals that take into

account the existing site conditions in Town Center. Staff also presented information about successful regional stormwater solutions in the cities of Bothell, Redmond and Issaquah.

Regional stormwater facilities have many potential advantages, including reduced initial capital construction, long-term maintenance, and operating costs, as well as improved water quality.

Staff will present more information about potential funding options for a regional stormwater facility at the May 1 City Council meeting. All staff materials and presentations are available to view on the city's website.

Land Acquisition Strategy

Public Meeting #2

Thursday, May 11,
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
City Hall

Staff will present results of statistically valid community survey and Virtual Town Hall

Get in the driver's seat at Rig-a-Palooza!!!

Climb into the cab of a giant work machine, make friends with a police dog, or just wander around eating tasty food and having fun!

That's Rig-a-Palooza 2017!
Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at City Hall Plaza



Make sure your charity car wash doesn't cause pollution

If you are involved with a charity car wash this summer, please contact the city of Sammamish to learn about pollution prevention practices during your event. The city is working to ensure charity events do not inadvertently harm the environment.

Washing multiple cars at a single event often releases pollutants into the storm drain system. Oil, grease, dirt and heavy metals come off ve-

hicles when washed. When these pollutants are washed down the storm drain, they aren't treated and run directly into the nearest stream, lake or wetland.

To ensure that your charity car wash is protecting our local water resources, the city of Sammamish has an Eco-Friendly car wash kit.

The kit includes a hose and basin to capture and divert the soapy water

away from the storm drain and onto grass, gravel, or into a floor drain that flows into the waste-water treatment system.

To reserve a kit, contact Lisa Werre at 425-295-0573. Kits are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and must be returned no later than two days after the event.

Thanks for helping to keep our streams, lakes and wetlands clean!

CITY CALENDAR

MAY

Tuesday, May 9

-Joint Mtg, Parks and Planning Commissions, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10

-Human Services Task Force Mtg, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 11

-Finance Committee Mtg, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 16

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

Wednesday, May 17

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Youth Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 18

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20

-Rig-a-Palooza, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, May 22

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

Tuesday, May 23

-PRO Plan Public Mtg. #1, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Monday, May 29

-Memorial Day (City offices closed)

Wednesday, May 31

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

JUNE

Thursday, June 1

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 2

-Skate Competition, 5-7 p.m.

Monday, June 5

-City Council Study Session, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6

-City Council Office Hour, 5-6 p.m.
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13

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

Wednesday, June 14

-Human Services Task Force Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Land Acquisition Strategy Public Meeting #3, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 15

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20

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

Wednesday, June 21

-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Monday, June 26

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

Thursday, June 29

-Finance Retreat, City Council 5-8 p.m.

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.

11th Annual

Sammamish ARTS Fair

fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application deadline May 29th 2017

Fair dates: September 23rd & 24th, 2017

Sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission

For more information: www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

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*Christie Malchow
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*Tom Odell
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*

Spring has sprung and summer is on the horizon!

Do you have an end-of-the-year school picnic to plan?
A family reunion, birthday or wedding?
Sammamish has five picnic shelters throughout the city – plus the beautiful Beaver Lake Pavilion – all perfect venues for your special outdoor event.



Beaver Lake Pavilion

Shelters and the pavilion can accommodate groups ranging from 30 to 100, and can be reserved through an online application process.

For more complete information, just go to www.sammamish.us, select the Parks & Recreation tab, and click on “Rentals and Reservations.”

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Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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