

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 173

CITY NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2016

City to mail survey to 2,200 residents

SEEKING ACCURATE VIEW OF COMMUNITY SENTIMENT

Continuing its efforts to broaden public input, the city will mail out 2,200 community surveys to random addresses throughout Sammamish later this month.

The responses will provide the city with a statistically valid picture (4-5 percent margin of error) of how residents feel about a broad range of subjects.

"The people who speak directly to us at City Council meetings are invaluable," Communications Manager Tim Larson said. "But, just like letters to the editor, or social media postings, they don't necessarily give us a representative picture of how the whole community feels."

The survey, conducted by N-R-C, a nationally respected firm focusing on the public sector, will feature a pre-notification postcard, a survey with a postage-paid return envelope, and a "second-chance" mailing of the same survey.

"We really hope people will help out their community by taking a few minutes to fill out the survey," Larson said. "The other client cities we've checked with have given the N-R-C survey really high marks."



Mayor Don Gerend (far right) and City Councilmembers meet with the Central Washington University Board of Trustees at the old Mars Hill Church on Oct. 20.

Central Washington University shows real enthusiasm during visit

Back in March of 2015, when the City Council voted unanimously to buy the old Mars Hill Church on 228th Avenue, they did so with enthusiasm, noting that it would be a great spot for an institution of higher learning.

At press time, there was no official word yet, but based on the exceedingly positive meeting city officials had with Central Washington University's

Board of Trustees on Oct. 20, it would appear last year's Council may be credited with a great deal of foresight.

"We would have a lot of details to work out, but after meeting with the Trustees, it seems clear that they're very, very interested," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "Assuming we can clear all the hurdles, they said they could start teaching

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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GARBAGE CHANGES

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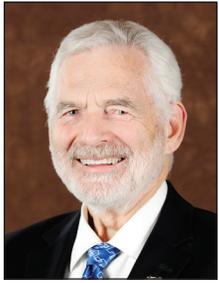
COMMISSION OPENINGS

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SDRAWK CAB ETOV

During presidential election years many voters are tempted to just vote for their presidential choice, and maybe a senator or representative, but then forget the rest of the ballot.

Given that it's the local choices that often have the biggest impact on our lives, that doesn't make much sense.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

Now I know the highly educated and engaged citizens of Sammamish aren't likely to make this mistake, but one way

to make sure is to start locally and work your way backwards through the ballot to the federal choices.

The King County elections office has helped you here by mixing up the order on the ballot. It starts with six state initiatives, followed by two advisory votes and a proposed amendment to the state constitution.

Then it follows with two King County charter amendments before turning to the federal choices for President/Vice-President, United States Senator and United States Representative.

By now you are on the backside of the ballot and it goes back to state issues, the nine partisan races for state-wide offices, starting with the governor and ending with the insurance commissioner. This is followed by the state legislative offices.

Depending upon where you live in Sammamish, you are in either legislative district 5, 41 or 45. You will be voting for your two legislative house positions and, if you are in either district 5

or district 41, you have a state senate race also.

These are partisan races and the state legislature is so balanced that the outcome of these races could have great impact on the structure of the state legislature. It behooves us to carefully study these races and make intelligent decisions.

You are not done yet. There are still the nonpartisan judicial races – three state supreme court justices to select, a court of appeals judge (this one is easy, since there is only one candidate), and six superior court judge positions.

Most voters find these choices very difficult to make, but judicial decisions can have huge impacts on our lives. Certainly the current supreme court's hard stance regarding the legislature's paramount duty to educate our children, as is outlined in the state constitution, has hugely impacted recent state biennial budgets.

Of course when the state doesn't have enough money to meet their "paramount duty," the legislature and the governor look for more money elsewhere, and in recent years that has been revenues and reserves that have historically gone to cities.

The cities have seen the state grab at the cities' share of liquor revenues as well as a nearly billion-dollar grab of funds from what used to be the public works trust fund. This was a fund that Sammamish borrowed \$10 million from when we first incorporated to hasten the expansion of 228th Ave.

The loan rate was at half a percent interest, and, over the course of the loan, we will save around \$6 million over what a market-rate loan would

have cost us.

But I digress; you do get the picture, hopefully, that all of the decisions we make on the ballot impact our lives. And that includes a big one we haven't mentioned yet – "Sound Transit (A Regional Transit Authority) Proposition No. 1 Light-Rail, Commuter-Rail, and Bus Service Expansion."

If we really were voting for local first, then indeed we should have started with this issue at the very end of the ballot. There is a one-paragraph description of this issue in the ballot, but this is a good time to advise you to refer to your voters' pamphlets.

There are two voters' pamphlets that you should have received in the mail. One has details on all of the state-wide issues and elections. This 151-page pamphlet has descriptions of the measures, along with statements for and against, as well as profiles of all of the candidates for State and Federal offices.

The second one, the King County official local voters' pamphlet, has the details regarding the two King County charter amendments, as well as, on page 28, information on Sound Transit Proposition No. 1, including statements in favor of and in opposition to the measure.

These are important decisions! Please find the time in your busy schedules to learn the issues, investigate the candidates, discuss with friends and family, and check on which groups and individuals are offering endorsements.

Most importantly, don't just vote for the federal candidates. Think backwards, and start with the local choices! It's those votes, after all, the ones close to home, that can really turn things around!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Gerend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Recycling and garbage changes coming in January

REPUBLIC SERVICES WILL EXTEND SERVICE TO NORTH SAMMAMISH IN 2017

The great divide – Waste Management in the north and Republic Services in the south – will enter the trash heap of history – so to speak – in January.

Thanks to a new contract arrangement that becomes effective in 2017, Republic Services will continue providing recycling and garbage pickup service in the south, but will extend that service to almost all of northern Sammamish as well.

To prepare residents, Republic Services is spreading the word through a public outreach campaign. Here's a portion of what they have to say about 2017:

Beginning in January, the City will introduce enhanced recycling, garbage and organics collection services for most residents. Republic Services will replace the current hauler in most of the northern portion of Sammamish, and will continue servicing customers in the southern portion of the City. Some of the exciting changes are listed below. More details will be mailed to you next month.

Bear-resistant containers – In January you will have the option to order a bear-resistant container for your household trash. As many of you know, bears are occasionally spotted on the Plateau. Additional fees will apply.

Organics Collection – Sammamish and its residents are committed to environmental stewardship; to that end, the new contract with Republic Services provides every resident with an organics container, and the cost will be embedded in the overall garbage rate. This services allows residents to recycle their food scraps in the yard waste container, and provides for year-round weekly collection, which reduces odors and mess.



Some customers will receive new carts – If you do not currently subscribe to yard waste service, Republic will deliver organics containers for all compostable items (food-soiled paper, chicken and fish bones, pizza boxes, other food scraps and yard debris).

Do you own your own garbage can? In December, Republic Services will deliver wheeled garbage carts to customers who currently use personal cans. These carts are included in your garbage bill. Save your personal container for extras you may have

throughout the year.

If you already have a cart supplied by the garbage company and you subscribe to yard waste service, you will see no disruption; you will keep the containers you have (and, starting in January you will no longer be assessed a rental fee).

Expanded recycling:

Curbside – With special preparation by residents, Republic Services will collect fluorescent tubes and bulbs, household batteries and used cooking oil. Look for the special preparation guide that will be mailed and available on line later this year.

Call in – Have small or large appliances that you no longer want? Call first, and Republic will send a special truck out to retrieve the item for recycling. Limits apply.

NOTE: At this time, recently annexed areas of Klahanie, Camden Park, Aldarra-Montaine and Mystic Lake residents are not included in the new recycling services listed above.

If you live in one of those areas, you will remain with your current hauler at your current level of service for a time.

State regulation will allow Camden Park to fold into the new contract in 2019. Aldarra-Montaine will follow in 2020, Klahanie in 2025 and Mystic Lake in 2026.

Virtual Town Hall on bus service is now open!

As a distant suburb, Sammamish has often voiced concern about the sparse distribution of bus service on the plateau.

If you share those concerns, and would like King County Metro and Sound Transit to have a better understanding of your needs and wants, we invite you to participate in Virtual Town Hall, an online, public-input tool that is now gathering feedback on bus service in Sammamish.

To take part, just go to the city website (www.sammamish.us).

Prior to the 2008 national recession, Sammamish had much better bus service than

it does today. Like much of the Puget Sound region, our city received a number of service cuts at that time.

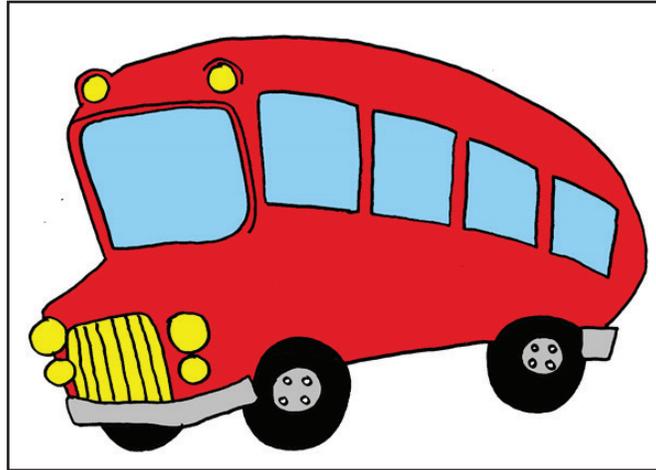
Despite considerable growth in our community in the last 8 to 10 years, only limited service has been

restored.

To rectify that, Sammamish has been actively engaged in discussions with both Metro and Sound Transit regarding the need for additional service to our community.

Naturally, it would be very helpful during those ongoing talks if city officials could point to a healthy flow of feedback from Sammamish residents.

To that end, please take a moment and provide your perspective on Virtual Town Hall. The survey, which contains a list of service options, is simple and should take just a few minutes of your time.



Did you receive an LID inspection notification letter?

IF YOU DID, THE CITY WILL BE INSPECTING YOUR LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT MEASURES

Without development, rainfall naturally evaporates, absorbs into the ground, or is taken up by plants and trees. With an increase in homes and lawns, rainfall becomes stormwater runoff. It can carry pollutants to streams, rivers, and lakes. Low impact development (LID) is a set of techniques that mimic natural watershed hydrology by slowing, evaporating/transpiring, and filtering water before it reaches a stream, wetland, or Lake Sammamish.

Low Impact Development Happens in Your Backyard

There are a variety of best management practices that offer methods and designs to mimic a natural watershed, by reducing or preventing development-related increases in runoff at or near the sources of those increases. These strategies include employing devices like dispersion and infiltration trenches, popup emitters, and drywells. Other techniques include reducing the amount of impervious surface constructed using wheel strip driveways, open-grid decking, and permeable pavement.

What is an LID Inspection and how does it affect me?

As part of the City's effort to protect water quality and prevent flooding and erosion, Public Works personnel will conduct inspections of select LID devices. If you received a letter, the notification indicates when and what will be included in the inspection for your LID device. Inspection will primarily consist of visual observations to determine whether the device is functioning properly. If you have questions regarding these devices or would like more information on how to maintain them, please contact Lisa Werre at 425-295-0573.

Volunteer opportunities!

The city of Sammamish Volunteer Program is designed to bring volunteers and city staff together to help assure the success of city programs and services. To see how you can help out, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us) and click on the “volunteer” tab on the lower, left-hand side of the home page.

To help ensure that all people, including those with low incomes, can access needed human services in Sammamish, the city encourages residents to volunteer with the many non-profits that do great work in our community. For a list of agencies, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us), click on “community links,” and then select the “human services” tab.

New parks director: Angie Feser

Armed with enthusiasm, quick wit and a masters degree in landscape architecture from Washington State University, Angie Feser took over the reins of the Sammamish Parks and Recreation department in August.

Feser, who came to Sammamish from the city of Covington, replaces Jessi Bon, now the Sammamish Deputy City Manager.



Parks Director Angie Feser

“Angie impressed us all in the interview process with both her credentials and her personality,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “We think she’s going to be a great fit in our community.”

In addition to her extensive experience in city parks, Feser also has a private sector background as the owner of a landscape architecture firm.

UNIVERSITY, cont. from pg. 1

some of their classes here in Sammamish as early as the fall of next year.”

One of the city’s great selling points is the location of its building, within walking distance of three excellent high schools. Teaching college courses to high school students – a program referred to as “running start” – would be an emphasis at the Sammamish campus, along with professional certification courses, and classes for older adults.

Dr. James Gaudino, the university president, accompanied the Trustees to Sammamish, along with his top academic and finance personnel. Howard was very impressed with Dr. Gaudino’s desire to make the university a part of the community.

“They don’t want to just hand out certificates, they want to reach out to all elements in our community and create real cultural and academic synergies,” Howard said.

The city bought the Mars Hill Church property for \$6.2 million. Since then, the city has fielded a number of inquiries from buyers interested in purchasing the 30,807-square-foot building and 22-acre parcel.

“We were always pretty confident we’d be able to sell it for at least as much as we paid, if the higher education idea didn’t work out,” Howard said. “But based on this last meeting, we’re hoping things will turn out just the way the City Council envisioned it all.”



Central Washington University President James Gaudino (right) chats with City Manager Lyman Howard (center) and Mayor Don Gerend.

VERY MERRY SAMMAMISH

Entertainment

Activities

Special Guests

Food

Fri, Dec 2
5 - 7:30 pm

Sammamish City Hall & Plaza

FREE Event & Activities

Plateau 120 will complete construction this spring

A new mixed-use development that will have many of the exciting features called for in the Town Center Plan is expected to complete construction late next spring.

Plateau 120, as it is currently known, will host 92 studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments (including 18 affordable units) and 14,245 square feet of commercial space in the northeast part of the Town Center area.

It will also feature enhanced pedestrian accessibility, new retail options, public terrace space, a bridge across the wetland next to 228th Avenue, a public trail, green roofs and environmentally friendly building materials.

Residents are expected to begin moving into the apartments in the spring of next year.



CITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Thursday, Nov. 3

-Finance Committee Meeting, 9 a.m.
-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 4

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

Tuesday, Nov. 8

-City Council Study Session, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10

-Artist's Opening Reception,
6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

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

Wednesday, Nov. 16

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

Thursday, Nov. 17

-Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19

-Gen-Fusion Workshop,
Noon -2 p.m.
EX3 Boys and Girls Club Recreation
and Teen Center

Monday, Nov. 28

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

DECEMBER

Thursday, Dec. 1

-Finance Committee Meeting,
9 a.m.
-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 2

-Transportation Committee Meeting,
9:30 a.m.
-Very Merry Sammamish,
5-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7

-Health & Human Services Committee
10:30 a.m.
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8

-Tagore Commemorative Event, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

-Joint Meeting, City Council &
Planning Commission, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 15

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

Tuesday, Dec. 20

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

Wednesday, Dec. 21

-Transportation Committee Meeting,
9:30 a.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.

Board and commission openings

The City Council is seeking applicants to fill openings on the Planning Commission (two vacancies), Parks and Rec Commission (three vacancies), Arts Commission (three vacancies) and the Beaver Lake Management District Board (five vacancies).

To find out more information about terms and duties, and to access the application form, go to the city website at www.sammamish.us and click on the "Commission, Boards" tab on the left side of the home page. The application is listed under "resources."

All terms last four years, except for the Beaver Lake Management District vacancies, which require a commitment of five years. If you have questions, please contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson at manderson@sammamish.us or 425-295-0511.

Small business Saturday!

Both the city and the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce hope that you'll help celebrate "Small Business Saturday" on Nov. 26 by patronizing one or more of the many stores, shops and restaurants in our community.

To put out the welcome mat, Sammamish small businesses will be offering deals and discounts. So, help your community, and the local businesses that create jobs and tax revenue, by spending your money at home!

Oh, and one other thing. When you make the cash registers sing in Sammamish, that means you're saving money on gas and helping the environment!

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*

It's "Toys for Tots" time again!

Just bring new, unwrapped gifts to City Hall and leave them in front of the Police Department door. These donations for needy children will be gratefully accepted until Friday, Dec. 9.



Detective Amy Jarboe of the King County Sheriff's Office with past donations.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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- Tom Odell, Councilmember**
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- Lyman Howard City Manager
- Jessi Bon Deputy City Manager
- Aaron Antin Finance Director
- Angela Feser Parks Director
- Beth Goldberg Admin Services Director
- Steve Leniszewski Public Works Director
- Jeff Thomas Community Dev Director
- Melonie Anderson City Clerk
- Michelle Bennett 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