

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 175

CITY NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2017

Help shape the city's land acquisition plan

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED TO COMPLETE PLAN BY SUMMER

The city is developing a land acquisition strategy to proactively acquire more land to serve public needs.

The city is focused not only on developing new parks and trails, but also on capturing the environmental benefits of preserving natural resources, wildlife corridors and a healthy tree canopy.

In part, this strategy has been prompted by growing concerns in the community about rapid residential growth.

"Ever since the economy picked up, property owners have started developing their land," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "That's created a surge in development that has a lot of people worried."

Although the law doesn't allow cities to stop growth, they do have the right, within certain parameters, to "manage" development.

"At our public roundtable meeting on growth, an in our Virtual Town Hall on the same topic, the suggestion

See LAND, pg. 5



New garbage contract in effect

REPUBLIC SERVICES NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE CITY

Since the first day of 2017, all the garbage trucks in Sammamish have been carrying the same name – Republic Services.

That's because the northern portion of the city, which used to be served by Waste Management, is now part of a consolidated contract awarded by the city to Republic Services.

"We've been getting a fair number of calls from people who are curious about their new service," City Manager Lyman Howard said.

"That's to be expected when there's a change, so I imagine Republic Services has been staying busy responding to customers."

For precise answers to your individual questions, online inquiries should be directed to www.republic-services.com. To inquire by phone, call 206-777-6441.

But here are the basics:

The 63 percent of Sammamish residents who previously subscribed

See GARBAGE, pg. 4

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Page 2

VERY MERRY SAMMAMISH

Story on page 6

FINANCE AWARD

Story on page 8

It takes a community to run a city!

As we begin a new year, with great expectations and perhaps some apprehension, it's a good time to reflect on the year gone by.

For Sammamish, 2016 was both busy and exciting. Our city grew by over 11,000 people with the annexation of the Klahanie area and the construction of new homes. We saw projects get under way in the Town Center, with the new Metropolitan Market scheduled to open soon.

We also saw the Community and Aquatic Center open in April, with 4,800 memberships on the books. That translates to perhaps 15,000 individuals!

Sammamish incorporated in 1999 with a population of 34,000. Now, with a population of some 62,000, it's larger than Redmond and nearly twice the size of Issaquah (at night).

Our city has received many accolades – Friendliest City in the U.S., Safest City in Washington, one of the Best Places to Live in the U.S., the 5th Best Schools on the West Coast, etc. Personally, I think much of the credit should go to the city staff and the great volunteers who make our community evolve and hum.

I was reminded of this by two of my favorite annual events, both of them last month – the Sammamish Volunteer Dinner and the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

One of the truly amazing facts about Sammamish is that in this young city, with so many new families still putting down roots, we still find so many residents willing to volunteer.

At the Volunteer Dinner, we honored these giving citizens, and recognized the more than 11,000 volunteer hours they contributed last year.

Many volunteered individually,

while others contributed through entities like the the Arts, Planning, and Parks Commissions, or the Youth Board, Beaver Lake Management District, Eastside Fire & Rescue, Sammamish Citizen Corps and Sammamish Police Reserves.



Volunteer of the Year Jan Bird with Mayor Don Gerend (left) and Deputy Mayor Ramiro Valderrama.

And let's not forget all our great plant and trail stewards.

The Volunteer Dinner was highlighted by the selection of Jan Bird as the city's "Volunteer of the year." She's done great work as a plant steward, a stormwater steward and as a key member of the Wildlife Habitat Project, among other things.



Employee of the Year Waylen Duggins (left) with City Manager Lyman Howard.

Beyond the auspices of city government, of course, our community has also been enlivened by the great work of the Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Citizens for Sammamish, Friends of Pine Lake, Sammamish Friends, SAMMI, the Sammamish Symphony and others.

The machinery of government, of course, isn't just operated by volunteers; there are also trained professionals doing great work. We honored their contributions at the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

- The Sammamish Police Department Officer of the Year Award went to Eric Lux.
- The Eastside Fire & Rescue Employee of the Year Award went to Lt. Travis Jumper.
- The City of Sammamish Employee of the Year Award was awarded to Waylen Duggins.
- The Team of the Year Award went to the Stormwater Team.

Another feature of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon was the recognition of long-term employees. Interestingly, and unlike a lot of cities, we didn't have any 50-year, 25-year, or even 20-year service awards. As a young city, the most impressive longevity awards went to Jodee Bass, Tom Tubbs and Stacy O'Brien, all of whom have served the community for 15 years.

Recognizing our terrific staffers and volunteers was a great way to wind down 2016. And I should mention that 2017 would be a great time for new people to pitch in! If you'd like to be part of this partnership of volunteers and staff, just go to www.sammamish.us and click on the "community involvement" tab.

We look forward to having you as part of the team!

City recognizes its employees at “appreciation” lunch!

POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFFERS GATHER FOR LUNCH AT BEAVER LAKE LODGE

On a typical day, they’re scattered around the community – in fire stations, police cruisers, city trucks and office cubicles. But on Dec. 14, they all came together for the “staff appreciation” lunch at Beaver Lake Lodge.

“Like most cities, we take a moment to acknowledge how much we appreciate the hard work our city employees provide to the community,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “It’s a modest event, but I think everybody enjoys getting together for a good meal, some well-deserved awards and a few laughs.”

The mid-day break ended with a challenge. Each table was supplied with paper, balloons, scissors, tape and a variety of other items, and asked, without any warning or forethought, to outfit one of their own in a “creative” costume.

“As a team-building exercise, it was great,” Howard said. “As an artistic effort...uh...not so much.”



City employees enjoy the “appreciation lunch” at Beaver Lake Lodge.



Police Officer of the Year Eric Lux with Sammamish Police Chief Michelle Bennett.



Firefighter of the Year Travis Jumper (left) with Deputy Chief Jon Parkinson.



The ill-fated results of a team-building exercise at the conclusion of the appreciation lunch.



Deputy City Manager Jessi Bon receives her 10-year service award from City Manager Lyman Howard.

Police launch “homeless kit” program for the needy

Working in collaboration with the human resources department of the city of Sammamish and the Issaquah Food Bank, the Sammamish Police Department is putting together “homeless kits” for people who are down on their luck.

This comes after an officer recently encountered a homeless family using a park restroom to get cleaned up.

“I thought some simple kits would make sense,” Police Chief Michelle Bennett said. “We’re hoping to make up at least 75 individual kits with non-perishable food items and hygiene products.”

The kits, which will be issued to city police officers for distribution, will

also contain a list of resource services for needy families.

Sammamish Reserve Police Officers have taken on the responsibility of gathering the necessary hygiene items. The Issaquah Food Bank will add the food and the Reserves will put everything together inside a draw string bag.

“We’re also hoping to obtain bus passes so these folks can access the social services that are available in the region,” Bennett said.

The plan is to start the “homeless kit” program in January. If residents would like to help out, Bennett says donations of hygiene items, mittens, gloves, coats and scarves would be

most welcome.

To donate, residents should just go to City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E., and drop the items off at the Sammamish Police Department.

“We do have some homeless people in our city,” Bennett said, “and they sure could use some help.”



In other police news:

If you’re going to be away for three days or more, you can ask the police to check your house. Just come to City Hall to fill out a request form, or access it online by going to www.sammamish.us and clicking on *government*, *police* and *house check request*.

GARBAGE, cont. from pg. 1

to yard waste services will see a reduction in their garbage bill. The 37 percent who did not subscribe to yard waste services prior to this year will see an increase. That’s because under the new contract, all customers will receive yard waste and composting service.

If residents with new yard waste service want to offset a portion of the rate increase, they may want to try this:

- Put food scraps in the yard waste container. That is a recommended practice.
- With less material going into the garbage, ask Republic Services for a smaller and less expensive garbage can.

Republic Services recently sent out information brochures explaining its services and rates to both new and established customers. It also sent out tips and hints about recycling,

yard waste and garbage.

If you’ve misplaced that informational material, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us) and click on the garbage service news item. It contains a number of links, including tips on recycling, composting and many other related topics.

Due to state law, newly annexed areas – Klahanie, Mystic Lake, Camden Park, Aldarra-Montaine, etc. – are not immediately covered by the new contract.

Although their garbage will be picked up by Republic Services, it will take a couple of years or so before the specific terms of the contract will apply to those neighborhoods.



LAND, cont. from pg. 1

was made that the city consider buying land to protect it from development,” Howard said. “We’d like to hear more from the community as we formulate our strategy over the next few months.”

Residents who would like to contribute to the dialogue are invited to follow the process at www.sammamish.us/parks-recreation/studies. This webpage will provide meeting times, and direct people to other opportunities for public input. Both the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission will be heavily engaged in this process.

“Having a well-thought-out land acquisition strategy is helpful to a city under any circumstances,” Howard said. “But with all the development coming our way, it’s really essential that we have both a near-term and a long-term plan.”

The land acquisition strategy is scheduled for completion this summer.

It’s official: City receives 20 acres



On Dec. 21, Mary Pigott, with City Manager Lyman Howard looking on, signed papers officially transferring 20 acres of her land over to the city. This was the second of three planned donations, all of which will become part of Big Rock Park. When the third donation is made in a few years, the passive-use park will expand to 51 acres. “Thank you, Mary!”

City prepares to launch PRO Plan Update

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS WILL IDENTIFY GAPS, NEEDS, OPPORTUNITIES

It’s not scheduled for approval by the City Council until early 2018, but the city is already busy preparing to refresh its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan).

The update, a requirement if the city wants to qualify for state grants, will run through the Parks and Rec Commission and the City Council over the next 15 months or so. The Planning Commission and Arts Commission will also be involved.

“This planning process is an opportunity for residents to have their voices heard regarding their preferences for park land, open spaces, trails, recreation facilities, as well as recreation programming,” Parks Director Angie Feser said.

Hiring a consultant is step one. After that happens in February, the city will launch a broad spectrum of public outreach efforts and analytical initiatives.

“Cities are always evolving, so we need an updated un-

derstanding of our current inventory, where our gaps are, what people want, and where new opportunities may exist,” Feser said. “A lot has changed since we did our last update in 2012.”

One recent change is the annexation of the Klahanie-area. That addition brings new facilities, as well as new demands, under the city umbrella.

The public outreach effort, among other things, will feature open houses, surveys, booths at public events, and the city’s new, online public-input tool – Virtual Town Hall.

“We’re going to publicize those public-input opportunities as they come up,” Feser said. “So we hope to have a really robust response from our residents as we update the PRO Plan.”

In addition to reading the city newsletter, residents interested in the PRO Plan Update should look to the city website (www.sammamish.us) for opportunities to weigh in.

Very Merry Sammamish!

There wasn't any snow at City Hall, but the holiday season got off to a great start on Friday, Dec. 2, with Christmas songs in the Council Chamber, a decorated tree and Santa Claus in the lobby, and a petting zoo in the outdoor plaza.

It was the "Very Merry Sammamish" celebration, an annual event that draws happy families from every quarter of the city.

The free community get-together, sponsored by Cascade Real Estate, Republic Services, Homewood Suites, and the Hilton Garden Inn, also featured face painting, crafts, tasty food and holiday treats.

Music was provided by choirs from Blackwell, Challenger, and Carson Elementary schools, by Pine Lake, Beaver Lake and Redmond Middle schools, and by the Eastlake High School choir and orchestra.



What's the big problem with motor oil?

Here it is: Oil does not dissolve in water. When it runs into storm drains, it goes directly to our lakes, rivers and, ultimately, to the ocean. Along the way, oil kills fish, wildlife and plants.

Did you know that one pint of oil can create a slick larger than a football field? It's true. That's one of the reasons used motor oil is the largest single source of pollution in our waterways.

But you can help! Keep your vehicle well maintained, check it for oil leaks regularly, take it to a service center for oil changes, and never discard oil, gas or antifreeze into a storm drain. One other thing: If you change your own oil, do it in your garage, not in the street!

Is the Lodge at Beaver Lake your venue?

Are you getting married in the coming year? Celebrating a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah? Planning a milestone birthday event?

If you are, you may want to consider the Lodge at Beaver Lake, a beautiful, historic log cabin that will accommo-

date up to 150 celebrants. Just call the city rental desk at 425-295-0730 to check on availability. Weekend rates have recently been reduced to \$140 per hour!

Sammamish Citizen Corps

General Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7 - 8 p.m.

Fire Station 82

Volunteer on Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

If you would like to give back to your community by doing valuable volunteer work, here's a suggestion. Why not set aside Monday, Jan. 16, the day we all celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as your day of service.

To peruse your volunteer options, just go to the city website at www.sammamish.us, click on the "community involvement" tab and select "upcoming volunteer events."

CITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Wednesday, Jan. 4

-Parks & Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 5

-Finance Cmte Mtg, 9 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 6

Transportation Cmte Mtg, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

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

Thursday, Jan. 12

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

Monday, Jan. 16

-Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
City offices closed.

Wednesday, Jan. 18

-Transportation Committee, 9:30 a.m.
-Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19

-City Council Retreat, 6 pm.
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20

-City Council Retreat, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21

-City Council Retreat, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 23

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

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb. 1

-Parks & Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2

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

Friday, Feb. 3

-Transportation Committee, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

-Transportation Committee, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16

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

Monday, Feb. 20

-Presidents Day, City offices closed.

Saturday, Feb. 25

Build-It LEGO Event, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 27

-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 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.

New webpage will keep you up to date on Town Center

As many residents have noticed, the city's website (www.sammamish.us) recently underwent a facelift.

Not so obvious, perhaps – the webpage for the Town Center project has also benefited from some cosmetic, and substantive, improvements.

The updated page is a one-stop click for all information related to the planning and development of our new, centrally located, pedestrian-friendly urban center.

Residents who go there will learn more about how the Town Center was planned, what its defining features are, and how the space is beginning to build out. Metropolitan Market, Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Jersey Mike's Subs are some of the names you'll see going up soon.



The "Village at Sammamish Town Center."

Medical offices, commercial space and apartment units are also part of the initial wave of development.

The webpage will be updated on a regular basis as more information becomes available about new projects, businesses and housing developments. To access the webpage, just go to www.sammamish.us and click through the home page pictures

until you get to "Town Center."

The City Council adopted the Town Center Plan in 2008. It calls for a mixture of retail, residential, recreational, commercial and public spaces, all located on 240 acres in the geographical center of the city.

Thus far, the most prominent development is the "Village at Sammamish Town Center," located at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street.

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Councilmember*



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*Christie Malchow
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*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

The city once again received the
Government Finance Officers Association
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting,
an award that recognizes cities, in part, for their
“spirit of transparency and full disclosure.”



*Mayor Don Gerend (left) presents
the award to Accounting Manager Jennifer Dilley,
Finance Specialist Jodee Bass and Finance Director Aaron Antin.*

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Angela Feser	Parks & Rec 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?
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