

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 181

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

City perplexed by trail lawsuit

COUNTY TURNS SIMPLE ENGINEERING ISSUE INTO A FEDERAL CASE

Although paving the East Lake Sammamish Trail is a King County project, the city is responsible for permitting.

So, when the city looked at two spots where roads cross the trail, and thought about the best way to keep everybody safe, it decided it would be best if the stop signs stayed where they've been for years – facing the trail.

But the County didn't like the idea of making trail users stop for moving vehicles, so they made plans to move the signs and require vehicles to stop instead.

The County also withdrew its application for a permit to work in the city's right-of-way, and proceeded without one. Concerned, the city issued a "stop-work" order until the issue could be resolved.

Based on a fiery lawsuit filed by the County, it appears this minor safety disagreement will be settled in federal court.

See TRAIL, pg. 3



Central Washington University!

AS THE OLD MARS HILL CHURCH GETS SPRUCED UP, STUDENTS PREPARE TO START CLASSES IN THE FALL

When the city purchased the Mars Hill Church building in 2015, it did so with the intention of bringing higher education to Sammamish.

Thanks to a lease agreement signed this past March with Central Washington University, that vision is just a couple of months away.

"Central tells us their 'Running Start' classes will begin on Sept. 20," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "That is going to be a great day for the city of Sammamish."

"Running Start" allows eligible juniors and seniors in high school to enroll in tuition-free college courses. The credits from these courses are generally transferable to other colleges and universities, while also satisfying high school requirements.

Although "Running Start" is tuition free, students are required to purchase textbooks and pay some fees.

"We have Eastlake High, Eastside Catholic, and Skyline High School – all

See CENTRAL, pg. 4

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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SIGN CODE

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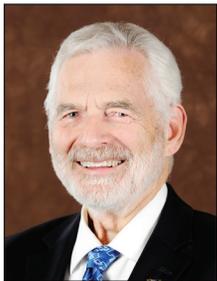
TOWN CENTER

Story on page 6

Change and public civility need not be mutually exclusive

Last month I attended the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) annual convention, along with Deputy Mayor Bob Keller, Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama and City Manager Lyman Howard.

AWC represents all 281 cities and towns in our state, with a mission of lobbying for city issues, providing services for cities, and educating city staff and electeds.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

I was there as Past President, and Chair of the Nominating Committee, and was proud to see AWC change leadership and board membership during the business meeting with a civility we've come to expect from this well-run organization.

It's a civility we should all embrace at the global, federal, state, local and, of course, family level, even as we see waves of change affecting our sense of balance.

At the AWC convention, one keynote speaker, Pablos Holman, gave us a whirlwind tour of innovation and change in technology. He is a "hacker, inventor, futurist" who is associated with Nathan Myhrvold's Intellectual Ventures Lab in Bellevue. Naturally, city leaders were most interested in envisioning impacts on cities and what they could do to prepare.

Some of the items mentioned:

- Autonomous vehicle implementation is coming, not just for cars but for trucks and buses. Could this lead to intra-city shuttles in Sammamish?
- The transition from fossil fueled transportation to electric is happening now, and so is the rise in solar, wind and, perhaps, safe nuclear power.

- Artificial intelligence, with its mix of benefits and job losses.
- A paradigm shift to smart grids, smart homes and smart cities, along with the related concerns about cyber security.
- Increased life spans, and the need for expanded senior housing.
- A change in retail and office demands as people shop and work from home.
- A greater emphasis on a "third place," something beyond home and work that provides social rewards.

Basically, we have to clear the path for the next generation – in education, business, quality of life, and emotional fulfillment.

All of these impending changes tie in with another talk at the AWC convention – Washington State University Professor Carolyn Long's discussion of public civility.

She said dealing with a rapidly evolving physical and social environment requires governments to make their decisions out in the open with thorough involvement of the community.

That's especially true now as ratings of government and elected officials continue to sink, and the tide of partisan animosity continues to rise, most notably at the federal and state levels.

Obviously, we need to do what we can to avoid that at the local level by promoting public civility and productive engagement.

What should we do to promote that in the city of Sammamish?

- First of all, electeds and staff can model civil behavior by listening, engaging, and not taking criticism personally. The Sammamish City Council listens at Council office hours, during public comment at Council meetings, and at workshops

and round table meetings.

- We also listen through Virtual Town Hall, our online, public-input tool, and by carefully reviewing the results of our random, statistically valid community surveys.
- Communication, of course, is a two-way street, so we also push out information in a variety of ways – through our monthly newsletter (which you are reading now), our website, social media, and an email and text alert system.

Here's one piece of evidence that shows we're listening. After hearing concerns from residents about development, we worked with AWC and their GIS program to produce a development map on our website. Now, instead of having to stop to read a roadside sign, residents can just click on an interactive map. To see it, just enter goo.gl/7eDV86 into your web browser.

Certainly there is more that the city can do to connect with the public. We might consider a citizen academy (Snoqualmie does this annually).

Also, we need to continue to reach out to diverse groups (including our neighboring cities and AWC partners) to make sure they're at the table during the early stages of policy discussion.

With change coming at an ever-faster rate, we need to embrace an evolving world – accentuating the positive and creatively mitigating the negative.

Speaking of change, we're going to have four new Councilmembers taking their seats in January. As we watch the competition for those spots over the next few months, let's hope that civility prevails – among the candidates, and their future constituents!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Gerend".

Community health and human services assessment

CITY WILL USE PUBLIC INPUT TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST PROCEED IN COMING YEARS

The city of Sammamish is conducting a needs assessment to better understand health and human service needs in the community. These services and programs play a supportive role in helping individuals and families achieve and maintain well-being.

Well-being can be affected by stress or challenging circumstances at any stage in life, such as the loss of a job, caring for aging parents, preparing to enter college, moving to an unfamiliar place, or dealing with on-going issues like depression.

Sammamish promotes a healthy community, where every person is considered essential and meeting basic human needs is considered a shared responsibility.

Although the city does not directly provide health and human services, it collaborates with local and regional agencies that do. Every two years, the city distributes grants to nonprofit organiza-

tions that provide services Sammamish residents need to support their well-being.

Community participation is an important part of the assessment process. To better understand community needs, the city invited public feedback through Virtual Town Hall, an online, public-input tool. It also held community events and focus groups.

This community feedback will be used to inform a “Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy,” which will help the city determine how best to support health and human services over the next few years.

The Sammamish community can learn more about what was heard, and submit comments, by visiting the project website at: goo.gl/CWdwMM.

For additional information, contact Janie Jackson at jjackson@sammamish.us or 425-295-0585.



TRAIL, cont. from pg. 1

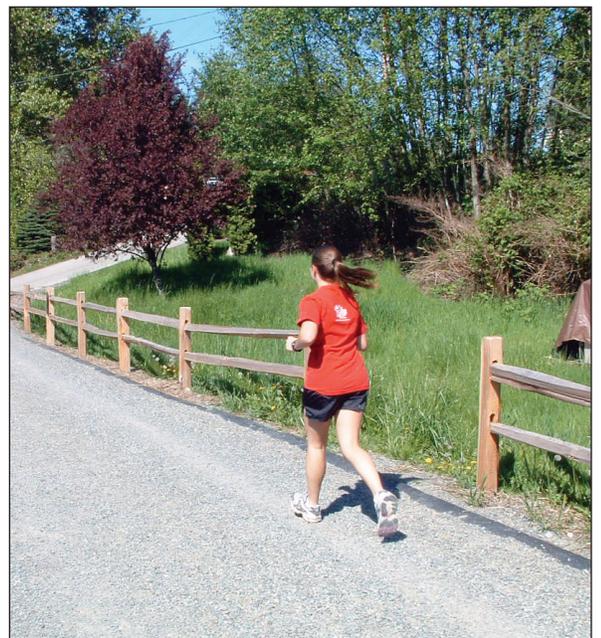
City Manager Lyman Howard says he’s perplexed by the lawsuit, noting that the city has been making a good-faith effort to facilitate construction of the County’s paved trail.

“We’re doing our best to follow city code, make good safety decisions, and move the project forward, but the County seems to be playing some mysterious form of three-dimensional chess,” Howard said. “I think it’s fair to say that we don’t understand their motives on this one.”

The two spots in question – at 206th Avenue Southeast, and Southeast 33rd Street – have not produced any accidents over the past ten years, so it’s a mystery why the county lawsuit insists that leaving the stop signs in their current location would produce an “unsafe design.”

“It’s a head scratcher,” Howard said. “Instead of getting both sides together and coming to a mutually agreeable safety solution, the County went to court.

“Our residents want this trail completed and we, as a city, have absolutely no interest in blocking it as long as it adheres to our code. So I’m not sure why we can’t just skip the lawyers and have our engineers work it out.”



The gravel trail surface (seen here) is now being paved.

CENTRAL, cont. from pg. 1

within walking distance of the new campus,” Howard said. “Sammamish students will no longer have to leave town to take ‘Running Start’ classes.”

Families and students interested in exploring the new Central Washington University (CWU) offerings can call 509-963-1351 or send an email to runningstart3@cwu.edu. CWU also suggests touching base with the student’s high school academic counselor early in the process.

The city made its case to CWU over the course of several meetings, including a pivotal get-together with the university’s board of trustees last October. With marketing materials in hand, and plenty of authentic enthusiasm, City Council members and city staff welcomed the trustees to Sammamish, gave them a tour of the building, and came away with a sense that their positive feelings were very much reciprocated.

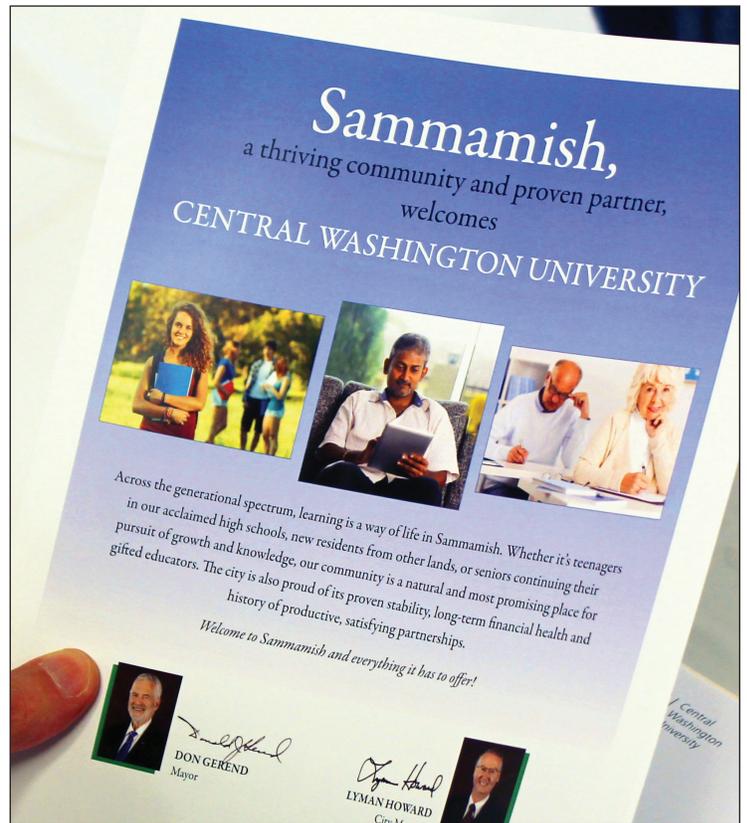


University and city officials get to know each other inside the city-owned building in October 2016.

“From the beginning, it felt like a good fit,” Howard said. “We had a lot of details to work through, but it came together nicely and we signed the lease on March 22.”

The initial lease is for three years, with options for multiple 5-year extensions. Other stipulations include the following:

- CWU will pay for all tenant improvements and lease the building “as is.”
- CWU will have the right to purchase the building at a price that will allow the city to recover all of its investments in the building.
- For the first three years, the annual base rent will be \$60,000. Thereafter, the base rent will rise a minimum of



\$60,000 annually.

Although CWU will begin with an emphasis on “Running Start” classes, the university will, over time, add continuing education for adults, professional certifications, and coursework for baccalaureate and master’s degrees.

“CWU intends to become an integral part of our community,” Howard said. “I think we should all be excited about the intellectual enrichment and the cultural connections they’re going to offer all of our residents.”



City Manager Lyman Howard (left) and Central Washington University President James Gaudino sign the lease agreement in March.

U.S. Supreme Court decision affects city sign code

On May 16, the City Council adopted a set of new regulations concerning permanent and temporary signs within the city.

The sign code update included changes related to the decision in the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court case of *Reed vs Gilbert, AZ*, which found that content-based sign regulations are an unconstitutional restriction on free speech.

In practice, this means that the city may no longer treat temporary signs expressing a political message any differently than it does a sign advertising a community event, for example. All sign regulations must now be “content-neutral” rather than “content-based.”

The majority of the city’s “content-based” sign regulations were related to non-commercial temporary signs, and included categories like

political signs, community event signs, and fundraising signs.

In their place, the City Council adopted three new categories to cover all types of non-commercial temporary signs:

- A Type I sign is a non-A-frame sign (such as a stick or wire sign) placed in the public right-of-way.
- A Type II sign is an A-frame sign (also known as a “sandwich

board”) placed in the public right-of-way.

- A Type III sign is any temporary sign placed on private property. Each category has different rules regarding size and permitted duration of display.

In addition to new non-commercial temporary sign categories, the City Council adopted new regulations allowing for new types of signs for registered home businesses, expanded the

permitted size for wall signs in Town Center, and reduced the number of certain types of off-site real estate signs. New residential developments are allowed to place.

A citizen’s guide to the new non-commercial temporary sign and real estate sign regulations can be found on the city website by entering goo.gl/fWyiBn into your web browser.



A pile of illegal signs gathered during a sweep.

Electrical permits now handled by the city

Effective July 1, the city of Sammamish took over electrical permitting in the city. Up until that point, the permitting had been handled by Washington State Labor and Industries.

With the city taking over, the goal is to provide better customer service and allow for “next-day” inspections. Customers will now be able to streamline their permitting and inspection services at one location.

Online permits can be applied for at www.mybuildingpermit.com. For more information, call 425-295-0531.

Be kind to the Puget Sound: Fix that leak!

Did you know that sometimes the cars we drive can hurt the Puget Sound? Sometimes they leak things like oil, antifreeze, and transmission and brake fluids. Then, when it rains, all that stuff that dripped from our cars onto driveways, streets or parking lots washes into the Sound.

Things like oil don’t dissolve in water. They last a long time and stick to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. It’s toxic to people, wildlife and plants!

So, our suggestion to all residents is simple: “Fix that leak!”

Here are some steps you can take:

- Fix the leak as soon as you realize your vehicle has a problem.
- Place drip pans or cardboard under your car until you can fix the leak.
- Use absorbent kitty litter to clean up spills. Sweep it up, put it in a plastic bag and toss it into the garbage.
- Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores will take it for free.
- Don’t dump old oil in the grass, on the street or into a storm drain.
- Attend a “Don’t drip and Drive” event at <https://fixcarleaks.org/>.

Reflecting on the Town Center planning process

As development in Sammamish Town Center continues apace, and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Town Center plan approaches next year, perhaps it's time to reflect on the process that brought the city to this point.

Although many faces around City Hall have changed, and many new residents are now adding their voices to the community conversation, the outcome of the discussions and decisions made back in 2008 still play a large role in the look and feel of Town Center.

The city first began discussing the concept of a Town Center when its first comprehensive plan was adopted in 2003. The goal: to create an urban center that could absorb a meaningful portion of the city's anticipated residential

and commercial growth.

In the five years between the beginning of the planning process and the adoption of the Town Center Plan, the city conducted a significant amount of public outreach that revealed a number of areas of consensus among citizens, including:

- Town Center should be a community gathering space with a variety

of activities and services to serve local needs.

- Pedestrian and bicycle access should be a priority, as should limiting traffic congestion. Parking should be accessible but out of sight.
- Open space and landscaping should be plentiful, and adverse environmental impacts should be minimized.

These priorities were ultimately reflected in the adopted Town Center Plan, and are increasingly evident as Town Center continues to build out.

To see a more detailed history of the process that went into the development and adoption of the Town Center Plan, go to www.sammamish.us and click through *Government*, *Current Projects* and *Town Center*.



Residents at a Town Center design workshop in 2006.

SAMM Apartments in Town Center due to open this fall

Fulfilling the Town Center Plan's vision for a mixed used environment at the city's core, a new six-floor apartment building, complete with around 15,000 square feet of commercial space, will open in Sammamish this fall, perhaps as early as August.

Located south of Eastlake High School along 228th Avenue, the new SAMM Apartments are also just a short stroll away from Sammamish Village, the home of Metropolitan Market, medical offices, restaurants and other retail and living spaces.

"After all the work our community put into designing the Town Center Plan, it's great to see it come to life," City Manager Lyman Howard said.

SAMM Apartments will feature

92 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, including 18 affordable units.

It will also feature enhanced pedestrian accessibility, a bridge across the wetland next to 228th Avenue, a rooftop deck, a 24-hour fitness center, green roofs and environmentally friendly building materials.

Bright Horizons at Sammamish, an early education and preschool center, has also announced that they will move into the commercial space this fall. They serve children from six weeks to six years of age.



CITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Thursdays 6:30-8p Pine Lake Park

- July 13 **Funaddicts**
50s hits to today
- July 20 **Chance McKinney**
Country
- July 27 **The Infinity Project**
music of Journey

KIDSFIRST! Tuesdays 1-2p

- July 11 **Leapin' Louie**
Cowboy comedy
at East Sammamish Park
- July 18 **Nate Jester**
Master of Illusions
at Klahanie Park
- July 25 **Alex Zerbe**
Juggler and magician
on Commons Plaza

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK Saturdays 7-8:45p Klahanie Park

- July 8 **Pericles**
- July 22 **Much Ado About Nothing**

@SammamishEvents

JULY

Tuesday, July 18
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19
-Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 20
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 24
-Blood drive: Bloodworks NW, 5-11 p.m.
-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 27
-Finance Cmte Mtg, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 29
-Sammamish Landing History Walk
10 a.m. - noon

AUGUST

Wednesday, Aug. 2
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
-Parks & Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5
-Evans Creek Plant Walk, 10 a.m. - noon

Wednesday, Aug. 9
-Human Services Task Force Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 16
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 19
-Sammamish Days, 10 a.m.
-Nature Journaling Walk, Pine Lake Park,
10 a.m. - noon
-Sammamish Nights, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 23
-Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 30
-Farmers Market, 4-8 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.



In case you run into a bear..

Although most bears try to avoid human contact, some become habituated to people and associate us with food.

So, please follow these tips to stay safe:

- Remove bird feeders from early March through November.
- Bring in hummingbird feeders at night.
- Do not feed pets outside, and clean your barbecue after use.
- If you run into a bear, remain calm and assess the situation.
- Move away quietly when the bear looks away.
- If the bear approaches you, stand up, wave your hands above your head, and talk to the bear in a low voice.
- Don't run unless you're sure you can make it to safety.

For a complete list of recommendations on bear safety, go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/bears.html>.

ECRWSS

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 Mayor



Bob Keller
 Deputy Mayor



Tom Hornish
 Councilmember



Kathy Huckabay
 Councilmember



Christie Malchow
 Councilmember

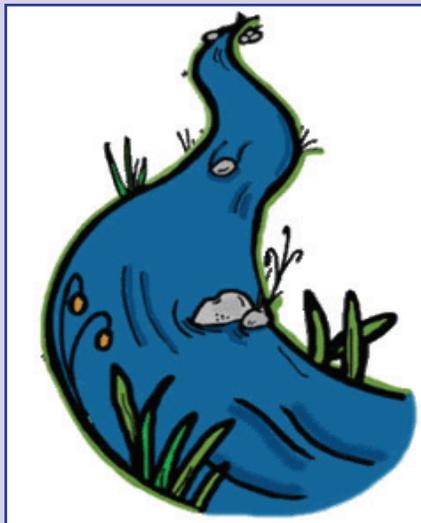


Tom Odell
 Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
 Councilmember

Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park!



Saturday – July 15 – 9 a.m. to noon

Join volunteers from the Washington Native Plant Society
 as they restore the habitat along this salmon-bearing stream!

To sign up, enter goo.gl/bwjFnU into your web browser.

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Beth Goldberg Admin Services Director

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Jeff Thomas Community Dev Director

Melonie Anderson City Clerk

Michelle Bennett Police Chief

Jeff Clark Fire Chief

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?

Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson

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