

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 130

CITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

City selects architect for Community and Aquatic Center

Four months after a majority of Sammamish voters said they were in favor of a new community and aquatic center, the city has settled on Barker Rinker Seacat, a Denver architectural firm, to design the facility and administer its construction.

“This is the same firm that conducted our feasibility study,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “They have vast experience with community centers and we think they’re the best at what they do.”

The city has set aside \$25 million for design and construction of the 60,000-square-foot facility. The YMCA, the city’s partner, is contributing \$5 million towards construction and will also be responsible for equipping, furnishing and operating the community and aquatic center.

The city’s share of the cost will be drawn from existing reserves. No new taxes will be needed for the project.

Among other things, the building will feature a pair of swimming pools. For full details go to, www.ci.sammamish.wa.us, click on the projects tab, and select community center.



Cutting the ribbon for the New Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School are, from the left: Parks Commissioners Brad Conner and Hank Klein; Deputy Mayor Ramiro Valderrama; Principal Brad Malloy; Dr. Traci Pierce, Lake Washington School District Superintendent; Parks Commissioners Larry Crandall, Cherye Wagner, Loreen Leo and Pauline Cantor.

City and Lake Washington School District create new field at Eastlake High School

The new synthetic-turf baseball field is exactly where the old one used to be, but that’s where the similarities end. The new field has lights, an all-weather surface, and can also accommodate soccer, lacrosse and football.

“This is a beautiful field,” City Manager Ben Yazici said at the

March 13 ribbon cutting. “I’m so glad that our great working relationship with the Lake Washington School District and their superintendent, Dr. Traci Pierce, has produced another joint-use field at Eastlake High School.”

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MAY I SEE YOUR LICENSE?
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Building the community

Sammamish is the wonderful kind of city it is in very large part due to the many, many volunteers who have put in countless hours and devoted their time, energy, and talent to the community. We all owe them our most heartfelt thanks!



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

During the last two years, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving on the SAMMI Awards Foundation Board of Directors. SAMMI is an acronym for Sammamish Acknowledging Magnificent Moments of Inspiration.

The SAMMI Awards Foundation was formed by a group of Sammamish

residents who first got together following the national tragedy of September 11, 2001, with the intent of finding a positive community focus to better integrate and unite our city. They decided to concentrate on recognizing passionate people who demonstrated leadership, commitment, compassion, and a strong sense of community from all over Sammamish.

This recognition is open to residents, people who work in Sammamish, or those who volunteer in our community. Anyone can nominate a SAMMI.

This year, the 12th Annual SAMMI Awards event took place at Eastridge Church with about 450 people in attendance on the evening of March

15. All 40 of the 2013 SAMMI awardees were recognized and honored for their service to our community and they serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Nominations can be made in five different categories under the new format: Circle of Service, Community Spirit, Courage, Environmental Stewardship, and Youth Spirit. A change this year was to reach out more to local volunteers for the actual production as opposed to hiring professional assistance and services. Again, this also helped to engage the community in the event – and it worked!

Nominations for 2014 are now open. If you know of someone that you feel has made a significant and unrecognized contribution to the Sammamish community, please visit the SAMMI Awards Foundation website – <http://www.sammiawards.org/> – and enter a nomination! Let's all help to celebrate the many positives in our community!

FIELD, cont. from pg. 1

The partnership with the district initially paid off seven years ago, when the city opened the first Community Sportsfield at Eastlake High. That field, like the new one, is open to both students and residents.

"These fields and the one we built at Skyline High School are really helping our field capacity," Yazici said. "We still can't accommodate all the requests we get from sports leagues and other users, but it's miles ahead of where it used to be."

With their all-weather surface and lights for evening play, the new

fields are in heavy use year around.

In fact, shortly after the ribbon cutting, despite drizzly and cloudy conditions, the Eastlake High School Wolves baseball team played

its 2013 home opener. In a game that might have seemed chancy during the grass field days, the Wolves bested the Snohomish High School Panthers by a score of 8-2.

The ribbon cutting for the new \$1.9 million recreational facility was attended by Deputy Mayor Ramiro Valderama, Councilmember John James, Superintendent Pierce, several park commissioners and a number of stakeholders.

To reserve space at the new field, residents should contact the facility rental desk at rentals@Sammamish.us or 425-295-0730.



Players warm up before the first Eastlake High baseball game on the new field.

Police Chief brings community groups together to think about youth DUIs

The city arrests about 50 people a year for driving under the influence. But that's not the figure that jumped off the page as Police Chief Nathan Elledge reviewed three years of data last year. It was the fact that 40 percent of those arrested were under the age of 21.

"That's a pretty high percentage," Elledge said, noting that Redmond and Issaquah typically hover between 10 and 12 percent. "Some of that can probably be explained by simple demographics – we have lots of kids up here and not as many adults just passing through town – but I was still concerned about it."

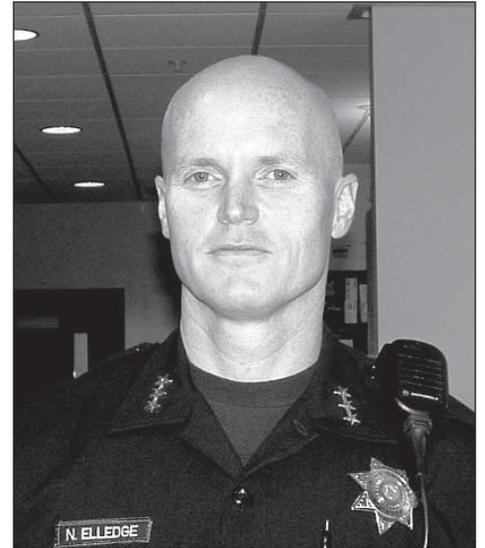
Wanting to take a closer look, the Sammamish Police Department

held three meetings with representatives from driving schools, insurance companies, school districts, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Rotary and the City Council, among others.

"We wanted to get a lot of people involved because it's obviously a lot more than a police issue," Elledge said. "If we want that number to come down, it needs to be a team effort."

That effort, the "Youth Impaired Driving Initiative," has produced three meetings, the last on March 27. The group, which has been meeting at City Hall, is expected to identify appropriate action steps shortly.

"We've got great kids in this community," Elledge said. "Our officers



*Nathan Elledge
Sammamish Police Chief*

know that, and I know that.

"All we're trying to do is to prevent accidents and injuries, and make the small minority of problem cases an even smaller minority."

Bog: an inelegant name for a rare and sensitive wetland CITY EXPERT WILL EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF BOGS AT PRESENTATION

We know the question has been troubling you, peering the outer edges of your conscious mind and refusing to go away – "Just what, exactly, is a bog?"

Well, relief will arrive at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 22, at Beaver Lake Lodge, 25101 S.E. 24th St.

That's when Kathy Curry, the city's wetland biologist and senior environmental planner, will address the issue at a meeting of the Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project.

"We have a lot of bogs in Sammamish," Curry said. "I'm always happy to share what I know with residents who've taken an interest in our community's sensitive areas."



Kathy Curry, the city's wetland biologist, will discuss bogs.

Although Sammamish has a generous supply, bogs are, generally speaking, quite rare and quite valuable. They're an especially sensitive wetland with fragile water chemistry and delicate vegetation.

For more information about this special event, feel free to contact Jan Bird at bird.samhabitat@gmail.com.

The Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project encourages provision of habitat for wildlife throughout the community – not only in public areas, but in individual backyards, on school and church properties, and in parks and places of business, creating a place where residents, flora and fauna can all flourish.

Sammamish Landing adds a pair of docks

THE CITY'S ONLY PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAKE SAMMAMISH IS NOW COMPLETE

It's quiet now, but come summertime, this place should be jumping! Sammamish Landing, the city's only public access to Lake Sammamish, is now set up to accommodate swimmers, boaters, sunbathers, picnickers, tired hikers, sweaty bikers, and fishing aficionados.

"It's going to be a great meeting place," Parks Director Jessi Bon said. "Now that the new docks are in, it can be 'By land or by sea.'"

The newly complete park consists of 8.23 acres in the northwest corner of the city, just south of the city's border with Redmond.

For now it's recommended that vehicles park on 187th Avenue Northeast, just east of East Lake Sammamish Parkway, and use the pedestrian underpass to get on

the East Lake Sammamish Trail. From there, it's a very short walk south to the park.

Over time, if more parking space is needed, the city's master plan includes a 36-stall parking lot just east of the park on the other side of East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

This access to the lake was made possible by a gift of

six parcels to the city back in 2001, and the transfer in 2009 of additional land owned by the city of Redmond. Although the park extends for approximately 2,650 feet along the shoreline, a few privately held parcels interrupt the land in public ownership.

NOTE: Although boats will be able to tie up at the docks, there will be no boat launch facilities available at Sammamish Landing.



Looking north from one of two picnic shelters at Sammamish Landing.



South dock



North dock

SAMMI: A celebration of community service

With several hundred people in attendance on the evening of March 15, the 2013 SAMMI Awards celebration honored residents for their community service. Nominations can be made in five categories: Circle of Service, Community Spirit, Courage, Environmental Stewardship, and Youth Spirit.

In addition to celebrating the contributions of the 40 honorees, the event also featured performances by the Eastlake High School drumline, the Blackwell Elementary School Choir, pianist Richard Baron, vocalist Michele Dusche and the Coasta Bear rock band. This SAMMI Awards celebration, the 12th annual such event, was held at Eastridge Church.



Youth Spirit honorees

Sammamish Symphony Orchestra

From the New World
Sunday, April 7
2 p.m.

Meydenbauer Theatre
11100 N.E. 6th St.
Bellevue

Sounds of Russia
Sunday, June 9
2 p.m.
Eastlake High School
Performing Arts Center
400 228th Ave. N.E.

Community garden to open LOTTERY WILL DECIDE WHO GETS A PLOT

If the weather is favorable, the ongoing work on the new Community Garden in the Lower Commons Park (just west of City Hall) should lead to an opening sometime in May.

If you are interested in signing up for a plot, applications will be available this month at City Hall (801 228th Ave. S.E.) or on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).

There are only going to be 58 plots available, and demand is expected to be high, so those obtaining a plot will likely be selected through a lottery process.

If you would like to familiarize yourself with the location, please join the Earth Day celebration at the Lower Commons on Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Public hearing April 18 on Parkway's level of service

At the direction of the City Council, the Planning Commission will recommend alterations to the comprehensive plan that will lower the "level of service" along East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

By making these changes, the city will not be required to make very expensive improvements to the Parkway that are called for in the current comprehensive plan. Those improvements were expected to be made to portions of the corridor north of Inglewood Hill Road. The Planning Commission will consider a number of different methods to alter the level of service.

To gather input from residents and other stakeholders, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the matter on Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall.

“Puget Sound Starts Here” Month

To take part in next month’s celebration of the Puget Sound, Sammamish families and residents merely have to fix an auto leak, pick up dog waste, or refrain from dumping anything into a storm drain.

But they could also go big by taking a swing at Safeco Field or participating in a variety of special family activities planned for “Puget Sound Starts Here” month.

All of this, of course, to keep Puget Sound clean and healthy, and to remind every single resident that the wellbeing

of our water-rich environment depends on the deeds and habits of individual citizens. Most of the pollution that enters Puget Sound comes from runoff – off our streets, sidewalks, driveways and lawns.



The habits of Sammamish residents affect the health of Puget Sound.

To learn more about the special event at Safeco Field, go to www.mariners.com/pugetsound and use “salmon” as the code.

You can also find out more about the individual contributions you can make on a daily basis to keep our water clean by going to [www.PugetSoundStarts Here.org](http://www.PugetSoundStartsHere.org).

The Prepare fair!

LEARN HOW TO HANDLE DISASTERS, EMERGENCIES

Let’s hope there isn’t a disaster just around the corner, but are you ready if something nasty comes our way?

If not, you might want to pop in and visit with vendors and experts at the Eighth Annual Sammamish Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

Practical information, hands-on demonstrations, and plenty of products – they’re all available at the fair!

This traditional city event, which is free, is sponsored by the Sammamish Citizen Corps, Sammamish Review, Eastside Fire & Rescue, and the city of Sammamish.

Show me your license

ALL SOLICITORS MUST CARRY A CITY-ISSUED CARD

When a solicitor knocks on your door, keep in mind that they’re obligated to show you a license upon request. Even individuals working for “exempt” entities like charities and non-profits must carry a city-issued card.

NOTE: Certain charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations or corporations which have received tax exempt status under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) or other similar civic, charitable, educational, political, or non-profit organizations may be exempt from these requirements, but the city does request they get the license and abide by the hours limitation. Please see license samples on the right.

Other rules governing solicitors include the following:

- Solicitation is allowed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- Solicitation is not allowed at homes with a “No Solicitors” sign.

If you think solicitors in your neighborhood may be violating any of these requirements, please call King County Dispatch at 206-296-3311.



CITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Monday, April 1 (through June 30)
"Jump on Board - A Skateboard!"
Art Exhibit, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
-CALLING ALL POETS!
(and poetry lovers), 6:30-8 p.m.
Sammamish Library

Wednesday, April 3
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 4
-Public Safety Comm Mtg, 4 p.m.
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6
Parks and Rec Volunteer
Opportunity, 9 a.m.-noon
SE 8th Street Park

Monday, April 8
City Council Office Hour,
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10
Donate Blood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, April 15
-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
-City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

Thursday, April 18
-Planning Comm Mtg, 8:30 p.m.
-Community Garden Steering
Committee, 6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 20
-Sammamish Walks, 9:45 a.m.-noon
-Sammamish Earth Day Celebration,

10 a.m.-1 p.m., Lower Commons
-"Au-some Artists!", 1-3 p.m.
EX3 Boys and Girls Club

Tuesday, April 23
Simple Measures, "Harmony Concert",
7:30-9 p.m.,
Sammamish Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, April 24
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg,
6-7 p.m.

Sunday, April 28
Samm Spring Recycling, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunny Hills Elementary School

MAY

Wednesday, May 1
-Finance Committee Meeting, 4-5 p.m.
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
-ACT Theatre-"Assisted Living",
7-10 p.m., Location TBA

Saturday, May 4
ARAS Bike Drive, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9
Art for Seniors (55+)
Workshop Series, 10 a.m.-noon
EX3 Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, May 11
Free Computer Recycling Drive,
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, May 13
City Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14
City Council Study Session,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15
Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6-7 p.m.

Thursday, May 16
-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.
-Community Garden Steering
Committee,
6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, May 18
-Parks and Rec Volunteer Opportunity,
9 a.m.-noon, Location TBA
-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Location TBA

Monday, May 20
-Arts Commission Mtg,
6:30 p.m.
-City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23
"Assisted Living"
ACT Theater Community Reading,
7-9 p.m.
Sammamish Library

Monday, May 27
Memorial Day
City offices closed

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.



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Sammamish, WA 98075

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Mayor*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Deputy Mayor*



*John Curley
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

7th Annual
Sammamish ARTS Fair
fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE

CALL TO ARTISTS

Application deadline May 15th 2013

Fair dates: October 12 & 13, 2013

Sponsored by the City of Sammamish, Sammamish Arts Commission
For more information: www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Kamuron Guroi	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Wes Collins	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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