

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 84

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

## City hires new police chief

**NATE ELLEDGE, 41,**  
PLANS TO KEEP CITY  
CRIME RATE “LOW”

Although he looks too young to have served 19 years in the King County Sheriff’s Department, Nate Elledge, the newly chosen Sammamish police chief, has a veteran’s resume.

The 41-year-old spent seven years as a patrol officer in Burien, served as a Detective Sergeant on the Green River Task Force, as a Captain in Maple Valley’s Precinct Three, as the Operations Captain for the transit police unit, and, most recently, as Commander of the county’s 9-1-1 center in Renton.

Now that he’s added “police chief” to the list, Elledge says he’s looking forward to the new challenge.

“I really wanted the Sammamish job,” Elledge said. “The city has a low crime rate, and the police department gets a lot of support from both the city staff and the community.

“The sheriff’s department provides

*See CHIEF, Page 3*



*Lisa Werre, Rob Garwood, Dawn Flores and Mona Davis at the permit counter.*

## Permit center wins state award

It’s called a “Governor’s Smart Communities Award,” and thanks to the hard work of city staffers, one now belongs to Sammamish.

It was bestowed in recognition of the city’s “Over-the-Counter (OTC) permit process, an accelerated approach that allows some permits to be processed and issued in a single over-the-counter appointment.

“It’s very rewarding to be recog-

nized for this,” said City Manager Ben Yazici. “We have pushed really hard to make our permit process more customer friendly, so this is very satisfying.”

The OTC process was devised by Plans Examiner Dawn Flores as part of her Master Employee Project.

“Dawn put together an employee

*See OTC, pg. 4*

**MAYOR’S MESSAGE**

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**TIME CAPSULE**

*Story on page 4*

**244TH PROJECT**

*Story on page 5*

## Citizens are participating

Sammamish citizens have choices when it comes to making their community a better place to live. There are church groups, sports and social organizations, and a myriad of other non-



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

profit organizations that rely on volunteers to help provide vital services to our community.

There are organizations focused on protecting the environment, preserving the last vestiges of our heritage, working on emergency preparedness, maintaining trails and supporting our schools. And then there are the issues and projects that your elected council and city staff are working on as our young city comes of age.

The choices and priorities are debated, and the public input is solicited through meetings, this newsletter, the city's cable channel, the website and through formal public notices. This year we have added weekly council open office hours every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The bottom line, however, is that most of us go busily about our lives paying minimal attention to our local government, until an issue or project comes along that directly affects us. It might be disruption of normal services by a snow storm, or a decision by your council to require dogs to be on leash in the city parks. Then we hear from you with either positive or negative input, and often very pas-

sionately.

This is good; the council needs to hear all of the pros and cons from the people most directly affected, as well as the greater community.

Government works best when there is this connection with the governed during the process of making decisions. Here in Sammamish that connection is well lubricated and, with a very astute population, that feedback can be quite sophisticated and most helpful for the council. A few current examples:

**Shoreline Master Program Update:** The State has mandated that all of the cities revisit their shoreline development code and update it, with guidelines and approval from the State Department of Ecology. The draft plan that is now before the council for consideration has generated many concerns among the shoreline residents of Lake Sammamish, Pine Lake, and Beaver Lake.

Many of these affected property owners have been working together to review the draft plan in detail and suggest changes. They have even submitted a red-lined version of the plan with comments explaining their proposed changes. Wonderful citizen input!

**Transportation Connectivity Options:** There exist within the city over twenty street barricades that were placed at street ends as subdivisions were developed, with the intention that the barricades would be removed when the adjoining property was developed. The decisions as to if, when and under what circumstances these barricades should be removed are unique to each situation. There might be special plat conditions, safety issues and broader traffic circulation considerations involved that could impact ad-

joining properties as well as the city as a whole.

Once again the citizens of Sammamish are engaged and very proactive. This year the city is working on developing a process by which each of these barricade situations can be addressed. With the engagement of the public, we will develop the process this year and start applying it to the specific barricades next year.

**SE 20th Sewer and Non-motorized Facilities Project:** In this case we heard from the public that bicycle and pedestrian facilities on this key connecting arterial between 212th Avenue Southeast and 228th Avenue Southeast were lacking. With the proximity of schools, parks and new subdivisions, the needs are acute.

At the same time a group of citizens had approached the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District regarding the need for sanitary sewer along this stretch of roadway. With the support and active participation of these groups of citizens, the city and the water district are working together to coordinate both projects.

**244th Ave. Connection:** This project completing the missing link across a wetland includes a bridge and a couple of roundabouts. Because of the active input of a group of citizens, the project design was improved, and construction will be starting soon.

Sammamish is a great place to live. Thanks to efforts like these, our citizens are helping the City Council and city staff keep it that way – and make it even better over time. The community thanks you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Shoreline plan draw full house

Public hearings and other meetings focused on the city's Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP) continue to draw big crowds to the City Council Chamber. A study session on May 12 and a public hearing on June 2 both attracted a room full of concerned and vocal residents.

"For people who live along the shore of a lake, the SMP update is a very important document," Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. "It has the potential to affect their land use, so they've been very involved and asked a lot of tough questions."

To accommodate that interest, the City Council has expanded the public input process, holding "dialogue tables" on March 31 and April 20, and adding to

the public hearing schedule. The next public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 1.

"The council wants to incorporate as many resident ideas as possible into the SMP update while at the same time meeting the requirements of state statute and guidelines," Gurol said. "It's a very tough balancing act."

The SMP update is a state-mandated revision of shoreline regulations focusing on items like setbacks, impervious surfaces, docks, restoration and other land uses.

Before the continued Sept. 1 public hearing, residents will have the opportunity to review a City Council draft



*A packed chamber listens to SMP discussion on May 12.*

of the SMP update, probably by early August. Adoption of the document is expected on September 22, with a subsequent review by the state's department of ecology.

For more information, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx), or contact Project Manager Maren Van Nostrand at 425-295-0538 or [mvan-nostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:mvan-nostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### *CHIEF, cont. from pg. 1*

contract police services to a number of cities, but Sammamish is definitely considered to be one of the plum assignment."

In a recent community survey, 393 residents were asked how safe they felt walking alone in their neighborhood after dark. Of those who expressed an opinion, 91.6 percent said they felt "safe or very safe."

"Sammamish has excellent public safety, and we're going to do everything we can to keep it that way," Elledge said. "We have excellent officers here and a supportive community, so we're planning on continued success."

Elledge, who was scheduled to start his new job on June 1, also plans to emphasize school zone traffic safety.

"We have a lot of kids and a lot of

schools in Sammamish," he said. "Safe school zones are going to be a priority with me."

Elledge, who is married with three kids of his own, is originally from the San Francisco bay area. Before moving to the northwest, he spent two-and-a-half years in San Jose working as a 9-1-1 dispatcher.

Asked what he looks forward to the most when he heads for work in the morning, Elledge didn't hesitate.

"I love interacting with the community," he said, "Whether its residents, school officials, business people or my fellow employees, I look forward to talking, listening and solving problems."

Elledge will follow in the footsteps of Brad Thompson, who served a three-year stint as the city's police chief. Earlier this year, Thompson requested a transfer to Precinct Three in Maple Valley, a move that shortened his commute and allowed him to spend more time with his family.



*New Sammamish Police Chief Nate Elledge.*

## City's 10th Birthday party will feature time capsule

### RESIDENTS INVITED TO VIDEOTAPE THEIR MESSAGES TO THE FUTURE

If you want people in 2049 to know what you were thinking about in 2009, you had better get down to the Farmers Market at City Hall Plaza and record your thoughts on Eddie Bishop's video camera.

Bishop, the owner of Audio Amigo Video Services, has volunteered to tape your messages to the future every Wednesday afternoon between 5 and 7 p.m. though June 24. The messages, recorded at no charge, will go into a time capsule to be buried during the city's 10th birthday celebration on Aug. 29, also at the City Hall Plaza.

Mayor Don Gerend, who has been visiting schools to publicize the time capsule messages, has suggested that kids send a message to themselves.

"They get a kick out of that idea," Gerend said. "Kids who want to be firefighters or astronauts now realize they may be addressing someone who

ended up taking a completely different path. I suggested that their messages could include something like 'I hope you're happy.'"

Although 10-year-olds are a special focus in honor of the city's 10th birthday, residents of all ages are welcome to record their thoughts.

For comprehensive information on the city's big birthday bash, go to the

city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the big number 10 at the top of the page.

The event will kick off with a "Kid's Parade" at 10 a.m., originating at Mary Queen of Peace church and then heading up 228th Avenue to City Hall. Costumes and decorations are highly encouraged. For more information call Janie Marie at 425-295-0585.



*Recording messages to the future at the Sammamish Farmers Market.*

Live entertainment, cake and punch, kids activities and a whole lot more will then begin at 10:30 a.m. After the official birthday ceremony at 1 p.m., the time capsule will be buried at 1:30 p.m. The big day will end with a ticketed food and wine event that evening at City Hall sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

**NOTE:** The qualifying test deadline for the Decicentennial Math Contest (open to all ages) has been extended to Aug. 1. The proctored exam will be held on Aug. 12.

### *OTC, cont. from pg. 1*

committee and worked through all the details so this process would really help out customers," Yazici said. "Dawn, our permit center staff, and our planners deserve a lot of credit for this."

The OTC process is especially well suited to smaller projects like decks or modest remodels. When the plan

review is simple, the permit is often issued in two hours or less.

An OTC application packet is available on the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Permits.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Permits.aspx). The packet is also available in hard copy form at City Hall. After residents look at the packet, they should call 425-295-0500 and ask for the permit center.

"They will be happy to answer any questions and help our customers set up the OTC process if it's appropriate for their project," Yazici said.

The OTC initiative is just one part of a multi-pronged effort to improve the city's overall permitting process, an effort informed by customer feedback, internal review, and work with a consultant.

## Farmers Market makes Wednesdays special

This Wednesday evening, as you're driving down 228th Avenue, take a quick turn into City Hall and see why there always seems to be a commotion at mid-week.

It's the Farmers Market, every Wednesday between 4 and 8 p.m., drawing a crowd with fruit, flowers, giant doughnuts, live music, arts and crafts, and a whole lot more.

"We've added some "30-minute" parking spaces close to the market so shoppers can load up their cars more easily this year," said the city's Dawn Sanders. "It's going to be a great season."

The market, organized by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, will run through September, although the hours will be shortened in that final month with a closing time of 7 p.m. Vendors who would like to take part should contact Deb Sogge at 425-681-4910 or [deb@sammamishchamber.org](mailto:deb@sammamishchamber.org).



*A food booth does great business at the Sammamish Farmers Market.*

## The "missing link" along 244th begins construction BID COMES IN \$4.5 MILLION BELOW ENGINEERS' ESTIMATE

Today, when residents in the Beavercrest neighborhood want to go north, they begin by heading south. Then they go west. And then, finally, after a long, circuitous route, they get to turn their wheels north.

"Once this 244th Avenue project is done, they're going to have a much easier drive up to State Route 202," said Project Manager Jed Ireland. "We're going to prove once again that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line."

The mile-long project, scheduled to begin construction this month, will improve and complete 244th Avenue between Southeast Eighth Avenue and

Northeast Eighth Avenue. Currently, some of the roadway has a gravel surface, and one section is missing altogether. That missing link, through a wetland just west of Allen Lake, will be connected by a low, 800-foot bridge.

The apparent low bid came in at \$9.3 million, a very substantial \$4.5 million below engineers' estimates.

"The new roadway is going to reduce congestion elsewhere, improve connectivity within the city, and provide better access for emergency vehicles," Ireland said.

Along with the bridge and pavement, the project will also add a landscaped median with turn pockets,

and roundabouts at Northeast Eighth Street and East Main Street.

Although some of the utilities are already being relocated along the road, actual construction isn't scheduled to begin until later this month. Completion of the 244th Avenue project is expected to take 12 months.

"When we finish up next summer, 244th is going to provide Sammamish residents with another north/south corridor," Ireland said. "It won't be just 228th Avenue and the East Lake Sammamish Parkway anymore."

For more information on the project, contact Jed Ireland at 425-295-0563 or [jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

## Don't feed the algae

If you would like to reduce the algae in our city lakes, you are encouraged to use phosphorous-free fertilizer on your lawn. Algae needs phosphorous to grow, and runoff from city lawns can provide a fattening diet.

Fortunately, phosphorous-free fertilizer is available in some local stores. Just look at the side of the bag and find a zero in the middle of three numbers (XX-0-XX).

The use of phosphorous-free fertilizer to maintain healthy lakes is supported by several studies and recommended by the Pine Lake Management Plan. The lack of phosphorous in the fertilizer won't hurt your lawn. Sammamish soil has enough natural phosphorous to keep your grass in great shape.

## Teenfest kicks off summer vacation in Sammamish

Kids can celebrate the end of school this year by attending the city's second Teenfest, a combination skateboard competition and music event scheduled for June 19 next to City Hall.

A big crowd attended last year's event, and another sun-



*Warming up for the skate competition in 2008.*

soaked extravaganza is expected this year – weather permitting, of course. The skateboard competition will run from 1 to 5 p.m. at the city's skatepark. Live music and other fun

activities will then take over and run through 9 p.m. More information is available by calling 425-295-0500.

## Summer entertainment coming to a park near you

### Pine Lake Park

July 9 - Route 66 (Big Band)

July 16 - Hettle Street Blues (Blues)

July 19 - Taming of the Shrew/Wooden O

July 23 - Jimmy Free's Friends (Reggae)

July 26 - Tragedy of King Richard III/Wooden O

July 30 - Soul Purpose (Funk/Soul)

Aug. 6 - Black Velvet (Classic Rock)

Aug. 13 - City Knightz (Classic Rock)

(Concerts at 6:30 p.m./Shakespeare at 7 p.m.)

### Beaver Lake Park

#### Kids First Noontime Performances

July 28 - The Bubble Man/Gary Golightly

Aug. 18 - Zambini Brothers Puppet Show

## You may need a permit to cut down that tree

Although warm weather and chainsaws seem to go together, don't forget that a permit is required before you can cut down many trees. Here are the rules:

Any deciduous tree 12 or more inches in diameter and any coniferous tree 8 or more inches in diameter cannot be removed without a permit from the city. The diameter of the tree should be measured 54 inches above the base.

No permit fee is required unless you need to cut down four or more trees. The permit application can be found online ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/5187.pdf](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/5187.pdf)). For more information, call 425-295-0500.

## “Eco Art” show opens June 24

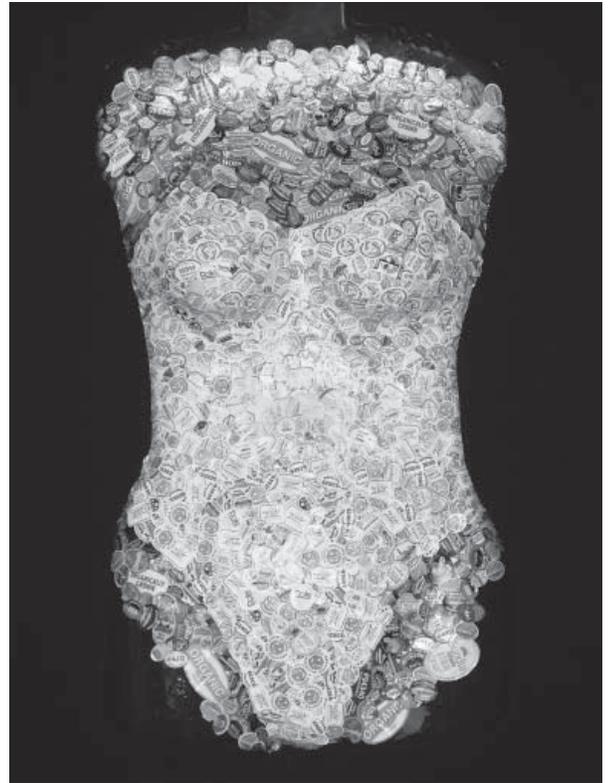
For centuries artists have taken items we normally toss away and found ways to turn them into art. On Wednesday, June 24, from 6 to 9 p.m., some contemporary examples of this artistic recycling will be on display in City Hall during the “Eco Art” show.

Donald McCale, Carla Dimitriou and Cheri Kopp are three of the regional artists who will be displaying their work. McCale makes bugs by soldering diodes to computer chips and then painting them. Dimitriou, from Sammamish, works beautifully in many mediums, but recently started welding metal and discarded materials into sculptures.

In one of Cheri Kopp’s sculptures, entitled “You are what you EAT,” she used stickers from produce containers to create a female form that appears to be wearing a swimsuit.

“Cheri is a bit of a purist and only used stickers from food she consumed,” said Carol Ross of the Sammamish Arts Commission. “She’s now prone to making her fruit and vegetable purchases based on sticker color!”

The June 24 event will feature refreshments, music by Evana Gerstman, and an opportunity to converse with the artists who produced these unique works of art. The public is invited.



Cheri Kopp's "You are what you EAT."

## CITY CALENDAR

### JUNE

#### Tuesday, June 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, June 3

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Beaver Lake Master Plan Public Meeting #2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Beaver Lake Lodge

#### Thursday, June 4

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, June 9

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

#### Wednesday, June 10

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Parks and Rec Comm. Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 11

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Monday, June 15

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

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, June 16

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, June 17

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Youth Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 18

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Friday, June 19

Teenfest, Noon-9 p.m.

#### Wednesday, June 24

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

### JULY

#### Wednesday, July 1

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 2

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Friday, July 3

City offices closed.

#### Saturday, July 4

Fourth on the Plateau, 6-11 p.m.

#### Tuesday, July 7

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 8

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 9

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, July 14

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

#### Wednesday, July 15

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 16

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Monday, July 20

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, July 21

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 22

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 29

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 30

Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

### PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings 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 CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend*  
Mayor



*Jack Barry*  
Deputy Mayor



*Mark Cross*  
Councilmember



*Lee Felling*  
Councilmember



*Kathleen Huckabay*  
Councilmember



*Michele Petitti*  
Councilmember



*Nancy Whitten*  
Councilmember



### Top Ten Favorite Sammamish Events...

1. Farmers Market
2. Fourth on the Plateau
3. Pine Lake Park Concerts
4. Holiday Tree Lighting
5. Nightmare at Beaver Lake
6. Recycling Events
7. Football Games
8. Eggstravaganza
9. City Council Meetings
10. Skyline Parade

Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) to participate in this month's survey:  
"What is your favorite Sammamish neighborhood?"

### Save the Date to Celebrate August 29th All Day & Night Event

*Festivities include:*

Time Capsule  
Art, Essay, Math Contests  
Live Entertainment  
Kids Activities  
Sammamish Timeline  
And, of course....Cake!

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Gurol	ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr
Lyman Howard	FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Robert Baxter	Acting Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr