

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 90

CITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

A new chapter for City Council

**HUCKABAY, BARRY AND
FELLINGE SAY FAREWELL**

The story of Sammamish is still rather short – the city celebrated its 10th birthday just this year – but City Manager Ben Yazici says the influence of Kathy Huckabay, Jack Barry and Lee Felling will persist for decades to come.

“Kathy and Jack were on the original 1999 council, and Lee came aboard in 2004,” Yazici said. “All three of them were on the ground floor, setting the course and making tough decisions that opened the way to a very bright future.”

“As they leave the council, I know the community and the city staff will join me in thanking them for their generosity, creativity and determination to do what they thought was right for Sammamish.”

Huckabay, Barry and Felling will be succeeded on the council by John James, Tom O’Dell and John Curley, respectively.

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It’s the Holiday Season!!



Led by Ms. Adrienne Sabo, the Blackwood Elementary Choir (4th, 5th and 6th grades), entertains a full house in the City Council Chamber at the Dec. 2 Holiday Lighting Ceremony.

The city’s annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony event at City Hall drew a big crowd of adults, teenagers and children on Dec. 2.

If they weren’t already possessed by the spirit of the season, the city’s festivities – co-sponsored by the Sammamish Youth Board – should have done the trick.

In addition to the lighting ceremo-

ny, the event featured a variety of other seasonal attractions.

The Blackwood Elementary School Choir (featuring 4th, 5th and 6th graders) filled the City Council Chamber with music and good cheer, led by a smiling Ms. Adrienne Sabo.

The standing-room-only crowd

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FIRE SERVICE MEETING

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NEW ART EXHIBIT

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Thank You, Kathy, Jack and Lee!

The city of Sammamish has benefited greatly from the years of dedicated service our three departing councilmembers have provided to the community. As they step away from the council dais, let me take a moment to recognize the key roles they have played during the inaugural decade of this youngest city in western Washington.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

Kathleen Huckabay was active in the early incorporation efforts in the 1990's, which finally culminated in the successful vote to incorporate in November of 1998. With her background as a CPA, Planning Commissioner for the city of Issaquah, and with the backing of her husband Warren, who has been her sounding board and chief supporter, Kathy took her place on the first council in 1999 with pen poised, ready to work on the initial Municipal Code.

Kathy's contributions during these past ten years spanned all aspects of our fledgling city government and community involvement, with special emphases on long-term budgeting, environmental and transportation issues. Kathy and her husband Warren are charter members and past presidents of the Sammamish Kiwanis Club, which was founded in 1996 to provide community service to the future city; she also serves on the board of the Sammamish YMCA, is an active member of Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, was Chair of Eastside Transportation Choices Coalition, and is the current Vice Chair of the important Regional

Transit Committee which oversees the operation of King County Metro.

Jack Barry also brought experience to the table from his service on the Issaquah Planning and Parks Commissions when he was elected to the first Sammamish City Council in 1999. As a former high school principal and school district administrator, Jack possessed both professional skill and empathy. The latter, in a city with one third of its population under age 18, was especially useful. And, of course, his wife Janet was the Issaquah School District Superintendent during Sammamish's formative years.

Along with his council duties, which included representing Sammamish on the Eastside Fire & Rescue Board, Jack devoted himself to community service. He successfully prodded the city to set up its Human Service Grant Program, and was a founding member of the SAMMI's (Sammamish Acknowledges Magnificent Moments of Inspiration), a program that recognizes the contributions of unsung heroes in our community.

He is a founder of the Rotary Club of Sammamish, and a member of the Sammamish Chamber, Friends of Youth, and Chris Elliott Fund for Glioblastoma Brain Cancer Research. Jack is also on the new Swedish Hospital Issaquah Advisory Committee and a member of the design team for the hospital, which is scheduled to open in 2011. Jack's signature project with the Sammamish community is the Rotary Challenge Race, a soapbox derby for children with disabilities, held each August on 24th Street, near Discovery Elementary School.

Lee Felling joined the council in

2004 after serving three years on the Planning Advisory Board, a diverse group of Sammamish citizens who wrote our first comprehensive plan. As a member of the council for the past six years, Lee's past career in corporate finance has given him a running start at budget time. His penchant for fiscal prudence and long-term projections has helped Sammamish achieve an AAA bond rating and a sound financial footing during these uncertain times. Lee has broadened his financial focus by serving as a member of the National League of Cities financial policy committee.

Lee has also had a special interest in helping to make city government function well for its citizens, and has done a lot behind the scenes to help achieve that goal. He has been a representative on the Eastside Fire and Rescue Board, where he served as Vice-Chair for three years. His outside activities have included serving on the Board of Elliott Bay Rotary, Treasurer of Kiwanis, Vice-President of the Northwest Railway Museum and doing probation work with adult offenders for the King County courts. His wife Audrey, who retired as English department chair for Redmond High School, has been very supportive and understanding of the time required for city work.

We have been very, very fortunate to have benefited from the skill, generosity and commitment of these three great public servants. I know our new council, and the councils of the future, will be inspired by their example.

Thank you, Kathy, Jack and Lee!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Gerend". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Thanks!



Councilmember Jack Barry
Service: 1999-2009



Councilmember Kathleen Huckabay
Service: 1999-2009



Councilmember Lee Felling
Service: 2004-2009

COUNCIL, cont. from pg. 1

“When people drive down 228th Avenue, or go to one of our new ball fields, or see that growth is under much better control, I hope they’ll think of Jack, Kathy and Lee,” Yazici said. “They and the other councilmembers are the reason we were voted the 12th best place to live by Money Magazine this year.

“I don’t think most people realize how

“Councilmembers have to do a lot of reading and listening, and then make wrenching decisions that don’t please everybody. It’s a tough job for tough, resilient people, and that’s what we had in Jack, Kathy and Lee.”

Ben Yazici
City Manager

much work is involved. Councilmembers have to do a lot of reading and listening, and then make wrenching decisions that don’t please everybody. It’s a tough job for tough, resilient people, and that’s what we had in Jack, Kathy and Lee.”

The newcomers will be sworn in on Jan. 5 during the first regular City Council meeting of 2009. Yazici says that Odell, James and Curley will face some very interesting challenges.

“Traffic, growth, recreational opportunities, the new Town Center – they’re going to have a lot on their plate,” Yazici said. “And, of course, they’ll be wrestling with how to get things done in a fiscally prudent way during tough economic times.

“But we’ve had a very good first decade, and I’m sure we’ll have more of the same with our new councilmembers. It’s going to be fun.”

Welcome!



Tom Odell
City Council Position 7



John James
City Council Position 1



John Curley
City Council Position 3

All Eastside Fire & Rescue partners to meet Jan. 9

Sammamish will join all other Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R) members for a “general partnership meeting” on Jan. 9. The meeting, called by EF&R, will be run by a facilitator and touch on budget issues and the potential expansion of the fire consortium. Currently, EF&R is comprised of Issaquah, Sammamish, North Bend, Fire District 10 and Fire District 38.

“We had a good meeting between our City Council and EF&R’s administration on Nov. 16,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We expressed our concerns about rising costs and the prospect of expansion. Our analysis indicates that expansion of EF&R would further raise our costs and provide no improvement in service to our taxpayers, so we obviously remain very concerned.”

If EF&R expands to include rural areas that currently have a lower level of service than EF&R, the city believes the existing EF&R partners will have to subsidize the extension of improved services to the new partners. Current EF&R stations are staffed by three firefighters. Many rural fire stations have only two.

“If we don’t subsidize the new areas, rural residents will have to tax themselves at a higher rate to pay for the improved service,” Yazici said. “That seems unlikely, but we’ll be very interested in what comes out of the Jan. 9 meeting. We get excellent service from EF&R’s firefighters. If we can contain costs, we’d like to stay in the consortium.”

The meeting will be attended by City Council members, fire board members, and associated staff. At press time, the time and place for the meeting had not been announced.



Sammamish Fire Station #82 along 228th Ave. N.E.

Reverse 911 now available

If there’s a big emergency affecting Sammamish residents, most of them can now receive emergency notification through their phones.

Reverse 911, as the service is called, works automatically with telephones using land lines, but cell phone users need to “register” to receive the notifications on their mobile phones.

For more information on Reverse 911, call NORCOM, the Emergency 911 Dispatch Center, at 425-577-5700 during normal business hours, or go to the Eastside Fire & Rescue website at www.eastsidefire-rescue.org.

Reverse 911 is a communication tool that uses a data base of telephone numbers and addresses to deliver the notifications. Hazardous material spills, evacuations, wildfires, floods, and severe weather warnings are some of the emergency circumstances that might trigger a message.

City receives clean audit

After spending two months this summer looking at Sammamish’s financial figures and the city’s adherence to the rules, the state last month delivered a “clean audit.”

“We love to see that,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It shows we’re paying attention to the details, doing things right, and keeping a firm grip on our tax dollars. Our financial team, led by Lyman Howard, has done a great job of collaborating with all of our departments and making sure our processes are correct.”

The state auditors don’t just follow the money. They also look at City Council minutes and other resources to make sure the city follows its own rules and procedures, proper bidding protocols, and also meets federal grant requirements, among other things.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

HOLIDAY, cont. from pg. 1

in the chamber enjoyed a selection of seasonal songs performed by dozens of youngsters decked out in Santa Claus hats.

“This is our third annual event here at the new City Hall,” said City Manager Ben Yazici. “It’s always nice to see the big turnout, hear the kids sing, and watch everyone have a nice moment of community as the holiday season approaches.”

Lynne Handlos, the city’s liaison to the Sammamish Youth Board, estimated that around 200 residents crowded into City Hall for the evening’s activities.

“It can get a little crowded at times, but that’s a nice problem to have,” Handlos said. “If the event gets bigger over the years, we’ll have to find ways to expand our space.”

A tent just outside City Hall was one step in that direction. The temporary quarters on the exterior plaza housed



Residents watch the lights go on at the Dec. 2 Holiday Lighting Ceremony at City Hall.



Three Sammamish children decorate cookies in the tent just outside City Hall.

this year’s cookie decorating event. Warmed by hardworking kids and on-looking parents, the tent produced a mountain of unique cookie designs.

The Eastside Fire and Rescue “Reindeer Truck” was also just outside City Hall, emitting seasonal music and accommodating guided tours for kids.

“The truck, the cookies, the music and all the people made for a very nice event,” Handlos said. “And, of course, the Sammamish Youth Board Giving Tree added a lot of significance to the evening.”

Adults and children who pulled a tag off the tree were asked to donate an unwrapped gift to the “Toys for Tots” program. The national donation program, run locally by the Sammamish Police Department in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corps, provides gifts for needy children.

Hardware: *A love story*

In the newest art display at City Hall, local artists Carla Dimitriou and Larry Calkins pay tribute to a great source of materials – the local hardware store.

As their art pieces show, canvas tarps, chicken wire, plaster, nails and power tools can make quite a statement in the hands of talented, creative artists.

The new exhibition, staged by the Sammamish Art Commission, runs from Dec. 10 to March 19 at City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

Dimitriou is a Sammamish resident and a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts and the Vermont College of Norwich University. Her work is a mixture of intelligence, empathy, and more than a dash of humor.

Calkins is a self-taught artist who lives in the foothills of Issaquah. Experimenting freely with painting, sculpture, and photography, his art defies easy labels.

This unique exhibition can be seen at City Hall during normal business hours.



Valentine, by Carla Dimitriou. This 2009 creation uses plaster, concrete, re-bar, spray paint, wax, newspaper and clothes pins.



Sunspot, by Larry Calkins. This 2009 creation uses wood, clay and bees wax.

Volunteer hours save \$200,000

Sammamish, a city that prides itself on lean budgets and low staffing levels, can thank its volunteers for some of its success.

“According to one gauge, the volunteer hours we’ve had over the past two-and-a-half years should be valued at over \$200,000,” Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders said. “That’s a huge contribution.”

Volunteers help in many ways. City Hall office work, special event duty, stream protection, and park and trail improvements are just some of the ways residents help save the community money.

“In the two-and-a-half years since we started the city volunteer program,



The city’s Amy Koehnen gets some help at the front counter from volunteer Dick Powell.

we’ve benefited from more than 10,000 hours of volunteer help,” Sanders said. “And, of course, we’d love even more.”

Interested residents can call Sanders at 425-295-0556 or email her at dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

CITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 1

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Holiday Lighting Ceremony,
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

City Council Special Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

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

Thursday, Dec. 10

Art Exhibit Reception - Hardware: A
Love Story, 6-8 p.m.

City Hall

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 14

Boards & Commissions Appreciation
Dinner, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 25

Christmas, City offices closed

JANUARY

Friday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day, City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan. 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

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

Wednesday, Jan. 13

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

Monday, Jan. 18

Martin Luther King Day

City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Eagle Scout Projects, 4-5 p.m.

City Hall

City Council Meeting, 6:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 25

Arts Commission Meeting, 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.



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Sammamish, WA 98075

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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*

Eagle Scout project meeting

MANDATORY MEETING SET FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO DO THEIR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT WITH CITY

Over the past year and a half, the city has benefited from approximately 1,000 volunteer hours donated by youngsters who did their Eagle Scout projects in association with the city.

To better organize and manage the projects in 2010, the city will hold a meeting for interested Scouts at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at City Hall.

This is a mandatory meeting for anyone who wants to apply for a project with the city. A similar meeting will



be held in September for projects to be done later in 2010.

“Our Scouts have built fences, created trails and done plantings,” Dawn Sanders, the city’s volunteer coordinator, said. “This meeting is intended to get everyone properly organized and ready to go.”

Interested Scouts can simply come to City Hall at the appointed time. If

more information is desired, please contact Sanders at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Ben Yazici | City Manager |
| 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 | AdminServices Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk |
| Nathan Elledge | Police Chief |
| Lee Soptich | Fire Chief |
| Bruce Disend | City Attorney |
| Tim Larson | Communications Mgr |