

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 92

CITY NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2010

Frank talk at EF&R meeting

With concerns rising in recent months, Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R) partners came together on Jan. 9 to express both their hopes and their frustrations. Although few concrete issues were settled at the all-day Issaquah meeting, a facilitator urged all parties to communicate better, and share information earlier rather than later.

“It was a productive meeting in the sense that everyone had their say,” Sammamish Finance Director Lyman Howard said. “We certainly hope all the partners will get more comfortable in the months ahead.”

The fire services consortium is made up of Issaquah, Sammamish, North Bend, Fire District 10 and Fire District 38. Although Sammamish is pleased with the service, it’s very concerned about rising costs. From 2002 to 2009, its annual increases for fire service have averaged seven percent, far above the three percent average rate of inflation.

The Sammamish City Council, concerned about that yearly sticker

See FIRE, pg. 3



Opening day crowds pour into the new Sammamish Library on Jan. 9. Mayor Don Gerend (right) and King County Library System Director Bill Ptacek (left) hold the doors open.

The new Sammamish library: TWICE AS BIG, TWICE AS POPULAR

It’s only been open for about four weeks, but the new Sammamish Library is booming.

Located right next to City Hall, the \$16.3 million facility is said to be handling about twice as many users as the old library at the intersection of

Northeast 228th Street and Inglewood Hill Road.

On opening day, around 8,000 library materials were checked out. The next day, when the library was open for only four hours, another 4,000 items

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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

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NEW INTERSECTIONS

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244TH AVE. PROJECT

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“Have your say in how we play”



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

Last month I expressed the importance of open dialogue between city officials and their constituents. As the city reviews and updates planning documents and ordinances, it is imperative that the pulse of the community is taken by various methods throughout the process. So, let's consider a specific case for setting up this dialogue in 2010.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan is a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The PRO Plan was adopted in 2004 and the time has come to update it. Much has changed since the original adoption – numerous park projects were completed, additional park land was acquired, new park master plans were adopted, and programs and services have expanded.

The updated PRO Plan will reflect all of these changes in addition to providing information on service areas not previously covered – cultural arts and heritage, recreation programs, sustainability and green initiatives, and volunteer services, to name a few. The updated plan is expected to be adopted in 2011.

Now let's hear about your participation opportunities. The Parks and Recreation Commission has decided to conduct an initial public outreach campaign modeled after a successful process recently used by the city of Seattle. Rather than holding meetings

at City Hall, commissioners and staff will hold public meetings throughout the community between the months of February and March. The outreach meetings will be held at various schools. The goal is to reach as many people as possible in the early months to gather useful information that will help inform the future direction and development of the PRO Plan. The marketing slogan for the public process...drum roll please: “Have Your Say in How We Play!” Look for marketing materials and a flurry of information to hit your mailboxes and your inboxes in February.

The Parks and Recreation Commission anticipates that, in addition to the initial marketing campaign to solicit public input, the City will:

- Update the inventory of public parks and facilities including school facilities.
- Compile relevant demographic information (population, growth trends, school population statistics, etc.).
- Conduct a statistically valid public survey based on information obtained in the initial public outreach campaign and based on council and commission directives.
- Continue public outreach efforts and encourage public participation through community meetings and online surveys.
- Draft various sections of the plan for review and feedback by the public, commissions (including the Arts Commis-

sion and Planning Commission), and the council.

The best way to stay informed on the PRO Plan is to go to the City website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us), sign up for the city's email alert system (see the box in the upper right corner of the home page) and check the category under Parks and Recreation entitled “PRO Plan Update”. Then you will automatically receive email notices of upcoming public meetings and be kept abreast of the status of the program to update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Just a note regarding the statistically valid survey – if the city randomly surveys some 625 households, the responses should be within about 4% of the results we would expect by surveying all 15,000 or so households in the city. Recognizing that we cannot survey every resident through this type of survey (the cost would be astronomical), there will also be a less formal survey on the website so the entire community will have a chance to participate. There also will be a website project page where people can go to get information about the PRO Plan, the process, public meetings, etc.

The bottom line is that the city plans a major update to its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and this is your chance to not only learn more about the PRO Plan, but to be a part of the actual update process.

Please take the time to “Have Your Say in How We Play”.

Two new intersections change the parkway

For Sammamish drivers, especially those locked into morning and evening commute times, the bottom of Southeast 43rd way and the bottom of Inglewood Hill Road are a challenge. That's where both hills try to spill traffic onto or absorb traffic from East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

To help widen the bottlenecks a bit, Issaquah recently installed a roundabout at the bottom of Southeast 43rd Way, and Sammamish reconfigured its intersection at the bottom of Inglewood Hill Road.

So far the reports are good.

"The backups at Inglewood Hill Road are much improved," said Project Manager Jeff Brauns. "We've received many positive comments on the



Several cars take a right turn off the Parkway and head up Southeast 43rd Way without having to stop for a light. The new Issaquah roundabout handles a heavy flow of traffic on and off the Sammamish plateau.



Cars leave the Parkway and cruise up Inglewood Hill Road.

improved traffic at the intersection."

The new intersection allows the main flow of traffic to be up and down Inglewood Hill Road. Previously, drivers coming down the hill had to take a right turn onto the Parkway.

Although the Issaquah roundabout isn't completely finished, it already appears to be functioning well. It's especially handy for drivers heading north on the Parkway who want to take a right turn and head up Southeast 43rd way. Previously, drivers faced a hard, right turn and a traffic light. Now they can use a free "slip lane" on the outside of the roundabout without having to stop for a light or take turns with competing traffic.

FIRE, cont. from pg. 1

shock, last year ordered a fresh financial analysis and instructed City Manager Ben Yazici to look at other fire service options. Although the city has made no decision to leave EF&R, the two most obvious alternatives would be for the city to start its own fire department or contract for fire services with a nearby city.

"The \$5.5 million we paid for fire services last year constituted 26 per-

cent of our annual operating budget," Yazici said. "That's our biggest annual operating expense, so we're not going to make any quick decisions. We're going to move slowly and thoughtfully."

The city's questions about rising costs received support from other partners at the meeting, but they also unsettled EF&R administrators and firefighters who are concerned about the future of the consortium should Sammamish try to leave in the years ahead.

"I think our City Council would

very much like to continue with EF&R if they see better cost containment," Yazici said. "The service we get from firefighters in our Sammamish fire stations is excellent.

"But the city has a responsibility to the taxpayers. The community can't sustain the rate of increase we've seen over the past few years.

"We're hopeful, though. We were very encouraged to see that the firefighters' union agreed to a zero percent wage increase in 2010."

LIBRARY, cont. from pg. 1

went out the door.

Library officials say the windows on all four sides of the building, the skylights, and the beautiful view of the Olympic Mountains to the west make the new building a pleasure to visit and work in.

The 19,500-square-foot library is about twice the size of the old building, and features a community meeting room, two conference rooms and a Children's Area and Teen Zone. It also has a large reading room, complete with a gas fireplace.

Tours of the new library can be arranged by calling 425-392-3130.



The new library features surface and underground parking.



Library users along the north wall can look out over City Hall Plaza.



Business was good on opening day.

Census Bureau is now hiring census workers

Would you like to earn a competitive wage while working in your local community? The Census Bureau, which is ramping up for the 2010 census, may have a spot for interested Sammamish residents.

To find out more, call 1-866-861-2010 for information and the opportunity to register for a 30-minute basic skills employment test. Practice tests are available at: www.2010censusjobs.gov.

These temporary, part-time positions include paid training and reimbursement for approved travel expenses. The

positions offer flexible hours and the opportunity to work primarily in your own city.

The census information collected is used in the course of formulating community improvements, transportation planning, educational services, and even emergency preparedness. The information is also used to determine the city's representation in government, and to direct federal funding for roads, bridges, public health and community-based programs.

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply.

Gerend, Whitten head new council

At its first meeting of 2010, the new City Council chose Don Gerend to serve as Mayor, and Nancy Whitten to serve as Deputy Mayor. Thanks to new rules adopted late last year, the mayor will now have a two-year term and the Deputy Mayor a one-year term.

The Jan. 5 meeting also featured the swearing in of newly elected members Tom Odell, John Curley and John James. They will replace outgoing members Jack Barry, Lee Felling and Kathy Huckabay.

Mayor Gerend is now the only remaining member of the original Sammamish City Council, which was seated in 1999.



The new Sammamish City Council (from left): Councilmember Mark Cross, Deputy Mayor Nancy Whitten, Mayor Don Gerend, and Councilmembers Michele Pettiti, Tom Odell, John Curley and John James.

Bridging the gap on 244th Avenue



Looking south as the 244th Avenue bridge begins to take shape.

Come July, thanks to an 800-foot bridge that crosses a wetland, 244th Avenue will join 228th Avenue and the East Lake Sammamish Parkway as one of three major north/south arterials in the city of Sammamish.

The bridge, now under construction, is part of a mile-long 244th Avenue improvement project that will stretch from Southeast Eighth Street to Northeast Eighth Street.

In addition to the bridge, improvements will include bikepaths, sidewalks, planter strips, a landscaped median, and turn pockets where appropriate. A pair of roundabouts will also be installed at the intersections with East Main Street and Northeast Eighth Street.

Residents who would like email updates on this and other projects should go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the "Email Alert" icon in the upper right corner of the city website homepage.

Email Alerts well received

MORE THAN 800 RESIDENTS GETTING UPDATES FROM CITY

Although it's only been up and running for a short while, the city's new email alert system appears to be receiving an enthusiastic reception from residents.

Toward the end of last month, more than 800 people were already in the system and receiving updates on a variety of city-related topics.

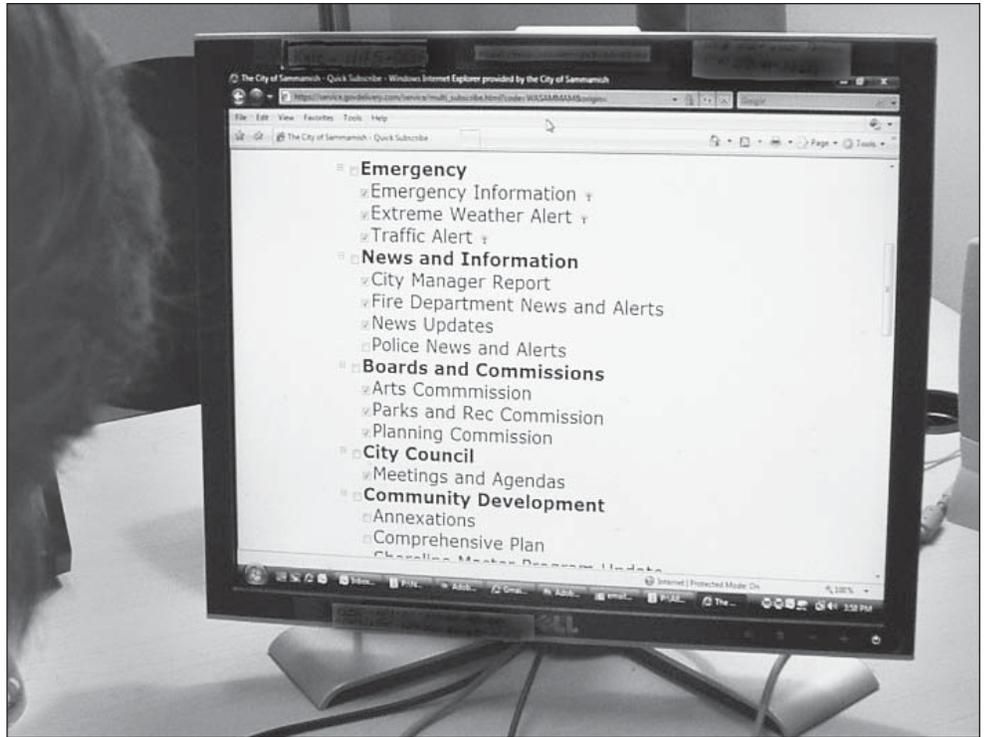
Residents can sign up for the service by going to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on the email alert icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page. After supplying their email address and establishing a password they can review a menu of topics and subscribe to as many or as few as they like. They can also alter their subscription list or cancel the service at any time.

"The beauty of this service is the way it empowers residents to take control of the information flow from the city," said Communications Manager Tim Larson. "Whether they want the the latest City Council agenda or an update on a new road project, they can select what interests them."

There are 45 topics on the email alert menu. So far, 461 people are receiving alerts on "volunteer opportunities," 361 have signed up for "emergency information," and 221 want to hear the latest on the "Farmers Market."

Narrower topics are also popular. The "East Lake Sammamish Parkway Construction Update" has drawn 146 subscribers, and the "244th Ave. Project" is being followed by 139 residents.

"The city of Sammamish is now in the company of the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce,



By going to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on the Email Alert icon, residents can sign up for email updates on topics of particular interest to them.

the city of Bellevue, and a lot of other government entities that use this service," Larson said. "It's simple, effective, and requires almost no work on the part of city staff."

In addition to sending emails to residents' computers, the system can also send text messages to people's phones on three topics: Traffic Alerts, Extreme Weather Alerts, and Emergency Information.

The messages are triggered in two ways: (1) The system monitors the city's website pages and sends out an email to subscribers when a web page is updated. The email contains a link back to the web page where the new information appears. And, (2), city staffers initiate a complete email on the topic they're in charge of and send it out to resi-

dents who've signed up for that topic.

Most of the service users tend to sign up for multiple topics. The more than 800 subscribers who are in the system now have signed up for around seven topics each. That adds up to a total of around 6,000 individual subscriptions.

"That constitutes the beginnings of a pretty robust community grapevine," Larson said. "We're really excited about it, and looking forward to seeing it grow over time."



The 2010 Sammi Award Nominees:

Arts: Barbara Jirsa, Lynn Roberson, Adam Gross, Karen Abel

Business: Gail Stacy Michelman, Jana Williams, Kelly Jenson, Scott Moore

Courage: Kirstin and Brendon Lynch

Learning Promotion: Caroline Friesen, Leslie Spero, David McGibney, Liz Sirjani, Mike Martucci

Trevor Price: Megan Nazarino, Sonya Ahuja, Chirag Vedullapalli

Teen Spirit: Sarah Pancottine, Jamie Eide, Emily Baer, Emily Dickson, Danielle Dales, Lindsay Mannion

Unsung Hero: Jon Bromberg, Janell Faletto, Dick Gram, Edie and Dave Herb

Youth Advocate: Athena Angelis, Karen Skoog, Kathi Eide, Corinne Immel, Curtis Madden

Spirit of Sammamish: Steve VanWambeck, Caroline Brown, Angela Kennedy, Marty Budzius

Nominee sponsors include: Key Bank, Regence Blue Shield, Swedish Medical Center, Eastside Catholic School, Trevor Price Foundation & Sammamish Kiwanis, Rotary of Sammamish, Evergreen Healthcare, Friends of Youth & Youth Eastside Services, Overlake Medical Center.

Sammi Awards:

Saturday, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m., at Mary Queen of Peace, 1121 228th Ave. S.E.

CITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, Feb. 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 7

Art Commission Retreat, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Joint Mtg, City Council/Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 15

Washington's Birthday, City offices closed

Tuesday, Feb. 16

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 22

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

MARCH

Tuesday, Mar. 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 9

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

Wednesday, Mar. 10

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

Monday, Mar. 15

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, Mar. 16

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 17

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 18

Planning Comm. Mtg, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 27

Fourth Saturday Volunteer Event, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Beaver Lake Park

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.



801 - 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Don Gerend
Mayor



Nancy Whitten
Deputy Mayor



Mark Cross
Councilmember



John Curley
Councilmember



John James
Councilmember



Tom Odell
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember

Volunteer Event

Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at Ilahee Trail/Llama Landing



This city-hosted event will focus on removing invasive plants such as Scot's Bloom and Blackberry bushes in the Ilahee Trail/Llama Landing area.

Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring along a pair of gloves. If you have an extra shovel, bring that as well.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders (425-295-0556, dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us) if you would like to participate.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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|------------------|------------------------|
| Ben Yazici | City Manager |
| Pete Butkus | Deputy City Manager |
| Kamuron Gurof | 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 |