

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 93

CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

## PRO Plan 2011

### CITY LISTENING TOUR WILL GUIDE CRITICAL REVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

A 10-stop listening tour intended to gather public input on a parks, recreation and open space plan is nearing its end, but there are still opportunities for Sammamish residents to “Have a say in how we play!”

“We’ve taken these meetings out to the neighborhoods so we can hear from everyone, including families and seniors who don’t normally come to City Council or Parks Commission meetings,” said Sammamish Parks Director Jessi Richardson. “As we revise and refresh our Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan, we want to make absolutely sure that we’re getting an accurate picture of what the community at large wants and enjoys.”

This update to the city’s 6-year park plan is entitled PRO Plan 2011 because it’s expected to be adopted

*See PRO Plan, Page 4*



*The Town Center will form on all sides of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street.*

## Town Center: Prudent approach pays dividends

### CITY SIDESTEPS COSTS OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Starting a Town Center from scratch requires a grand vision, and, in many cases, very deep pockets.

Some suburban cities around the country, eager to create a sense of place and a critical mass of business, social, residential and recreational activity, have bought up land, installed infra-

structure, and tried to birth their new village through massive investment.

Theoretically, the expenditure of tax dollars gives developers confidence, creates a desirable public/private synergy, and produces prompt results.

*See TOWN CENTER, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

*Page 2*

**KLAHANIE PARK**

*Story on page 5*

**CENSUS**

*Story on page 6*

# The 2010 census: It's in our hands

I need your help – ALL of you good residents in Sammamish. That is to say, not just citizens of Sammamish, but all members of Sammamish house-



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

holds as of April 1, 2010 (yes, that is April Fool's Day, but this is no joke).

On or about March 15 (I know, the Ides of March, but nothing to beware of), the United States Cen-

sus Bureau is mailing out 2010 Census forms. This Census happens every ten years, as required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

So, every ten years since 1790 the good residents of the United States are counted. I am committed to getting a higher rate of households mailing back their forms than in the year 2000, even though the Sammamish rate then was higher than the national average of 72 percent.

Why should you complete the 2010 Census form? A good reason is because it is required and if you don't complete the form and mail it in, a Census Bureau employee will come knocking at your door.

Another reason to complete the form is because it is easy to do; it's one of the shortest in history with only 10 questions and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including whether a housing unit is

rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of all people living in the household.

And, of course, there is also the reason that your local elected officials are asking you to complete it.

Having a complete and accurate count of the residents in Sammamish is important for many reasons. Since the number of Representatives that a state has in the U.S. Congress de-

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**“Should you  
worry about dis-  
closing informa-  
tion in the census  
form?  
Absolutely not!”**

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pends on population, and since Washington State could possibly pick up another congressional district if we count everybody in our great state, it is important to have a true count.

Closer to home, state legislative districts are determined also by population. And, locally, Sammamish receives a share of federal and state funds based on our population (so there is a value to the city of Sammamish on your head).

How else does the census data help your local government? It provides us with important demographic information to help guide us in deliv-

ering services to the community. The data might help justify the need for additional social services, after-school programs and roads, and guide what types of housing and activities we should include in the Town Center Plan.

As I mentioned a couple of months ago, the cultural diversity in Sammamish is increasing, and the census data will tell us who we are now as compared with the year 2000.

Should you worry about disclosing information in the census form? Absolutely not! By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including such federal agencies as the FBI, the IRS and Homeland Security.

All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data, under threat of fine or imprisonment.

In summary, completing the census form is important, safe and easy. If you want to learn more about the form or actual census information, you should go to <http://2010.census.gov/>. This government website has information about the 2010 Census available in a wide choice of languages. There is no reason not to “Stand Up and Be Counted.”



# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1

And that's exactly how it works out sometimes.

At other times – not so much.

“During an economic downturn, the grand vision sometimes falls apart,” Kamuron Gurol, the city's director of community development, said. “Developers become cautious, and the taxpayers are left holding the bag.”

The debt, regret and orphaned infrastructure now burdening some cities is nowhere to be seen in Sammamish. And City Manager Ben Yazici credits that to the conservative, step-by-methodical-step approach taken by the City Council.

“From the time they created a community task force back in 2004 to help them fashion a ‘vision’ for the Town Center, to their recent consideration of development regulations, they have refused to be rushed,” Yazici said. “This combination of ambition and prudence is working really well, especially given the economic environment.”

“And looking ahead, when market forces come back strong, we're going to be in a great position to harness that public/private synergy and develop a terrific Town Center.”

The Town Center Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2008, creates a development framework around 240 acres in the geographical center of the

city. Anchored at the south end by City Hall, the new library and Sammamish Commons, the Town Center vision calls for a mixture of retail, residential, recreational, commercial and public spaces, all bound and fed by a network of pedestrian-friendly, non-motorized pathways.

Aside from creating a community focal point and a sense of place – something residents can point to and say “That's Sammamish” – the Town Center will absorb growth and help protect existing neighborhoods from the impacts of more

Matthias said. “It's possible they may see fit to invest in some town center infrastructure when the time is right.”

One approach would be to build public facilities in the town center planning area, like a community center, that the public wants regardless of how soon – or even if – the town center blossoms.

“That's a win-win approach,” Matthias said. “The community invests in something it wants, in a central location; it helps prime the pump for private invest-

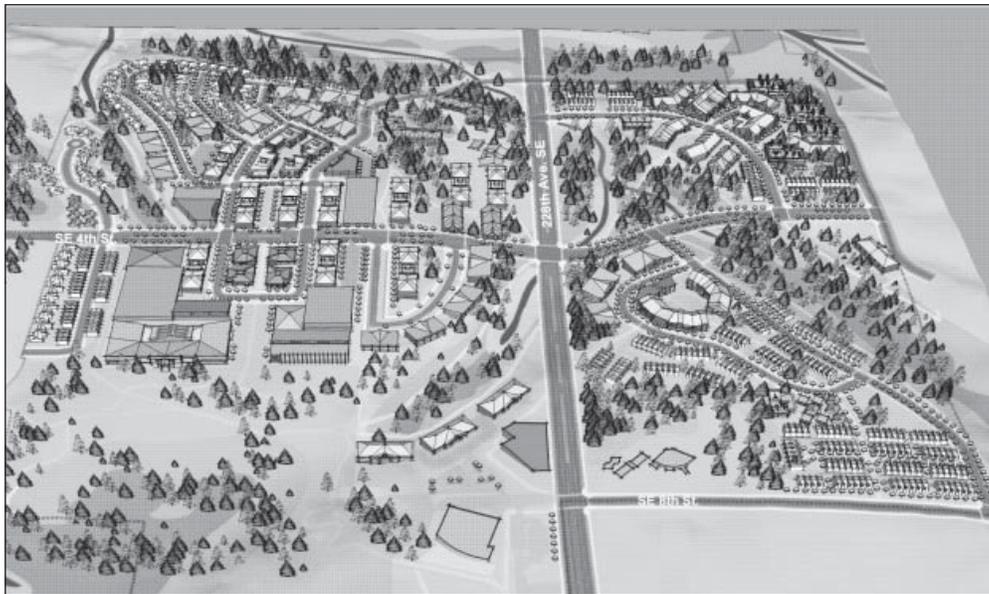
ment; and it allows us to hedge against real estate market uncertainties too.”

Although the community at large is supportive of the Town Center concept, Gurol says the city's methodical approach – not too fast, not too slow – has drawn its share of criticism.

“To use the Goldilocks metaphor, some people want the soup

warmer, some want it cooler,” Gurol said. “We, obviously, are trying our best to get it just right. Given the economic downturn, I think you could make the case that the City Council has done just that.”

For more information on the Town Center, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on the Town Center tab on the left side of the home page. You may also contact Town Center Project Manager Michael Matthias at 425-295-0539 or [mmatthias@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:mmatthias@ci.sammamish.wa.us).



*An artist's rendering of what the Town Center might look like. This view looks north along 228th Avenue, with City Hall and Sammamish Commons in the lower left quadrant.*

indiscriminate development.

The City Council is now putting the finishing touches on standards and development regulations that will safeguard the quality and character of the Town Center and make sure it's a good fit for Sammamish. The council's expected adoption of those regulations this summer will be a watershed moment for the city. Developers will be able to apply for permits, and, market forces willing, the Town Center will be on its way.

The City Council will also be watching the market forces,” Town Center Project Manager Michael Mat-

## Kudos for city police chief?

COUNTY 9-1-1 SYSTEM, WHICH ELLEDGE HEADED UP FOR THREE YEARS, IS UP FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Before he became Sammamish Police Chief in mid-2009, Nate Elledge commanded the county's state-of-the-art, 90-person 9-1-1 communications center in Renton.

During his three-year tenure there, Elledge initiated a comprehensive effort to meet the "accreditation" standards set by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Later this month, Elledge will join Sheriff Sue Rahr and two current 9-1-1

managers on a trip to Dallas to find out if the county system measures up to the more than 200 standards required for accreditation.

"Not very many 9-1-1 systems receive this sort of recognition, so we're eager to see if CALEA grants us the certificate," Elledge said. "I know how much work went into the county effort, so I'm pretty optimistic."

Sammamish contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office for



*Sammamish Police Chief Nate Elledge*

police services. Although they wear Sammamish uniforms, Elledge and the other Sammamish officers are still King County Sheriff's Office employees.

### *PRO Plan, cont. from pg 1*

by the City Council in the spring or summer of 2011. The revision, which will include a list of capital projects, is required by the city's comprehensive plan and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), a state entity that provides invaluable grants to local communities.

"The update has been on the schedule for some time," Richardson said, "but we think the process will benefit enormously from all the recent discussion of options. This past election season brought a lot of ideas to the surface – everything from community centers to community gardens."

Following a brief introductory presentation from parks commissioners and city staff, the "listening tour" meetings gather public input through small discussion groups and other means. That community perspective will be brought

to a joint meeting of the Parks Commission and the City Council on April 19.

"We'll follow that up with a statistically valid, random telephone survey, and then begin fashioning a draft update," Richardson said. "As we proceed,



*Residents at Feb. 23 PRO Plan meeting.*

it will be reviewed in public meetings by the Parks, Arts and Planning Commissions, and, of course, the City Council. There will be many, many ongoing opportunities for residents to 'Have a say in how we play.'

Additional meetings:

**Saturday, March 13**  
City Hall  
801 228th Ave. S.E.  
9 – 10:30 am

**Wednesday, March 17**  
Samantha Smith Elementary  
23305 N.E. 14th Street  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Thursday, March 18**  
Margaret Mead Elementary  
1725 216th Ave. N.E.  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

For more information on PRO Plan 2011, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/OpenSpacePlan.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/OpenSpacePlan.aspx).

## County looks to city to save Klahanie Park

### SAMMAMISH OFFERS TO STAVE OFF PARK CLOSURE

Last year, due to budget issues, King County announced that it could no longer maintain and operate Klahanie Park. In an effort to avoid a park closure, the county talked to both Issaquah and Sammamish about the possibility of taking over the park.

When Issaquah stated that it was not in a position to manage the park, Sammamish expressed a strong interest.

Among the reasons for that interest:

- Sammamish residents use Klahanie Park.
- Keeping the park open would reduce the pressure on parks inside Sammamish.
- The region needs more recreational space, not less.
- Like most cities, Sammamish tries to partner with other jurisdictions for the greater good.

Should the park transfer to Sammamish, users will notice very little change. The only significant difference: Sammamish would handle scheduling instead of King County.



*Klahanie Park*

The city has no plans to change the park in the near future. Should that day come, however, City Manager Ben Yazici says the public process responsible for those improvements would likely be somewhere between seven and 12 years away.

“If and when significant capital improvements are made to the park, a robust public process will ensure that all Klahanie residents have the opportunity to weigh in,” Yazici said.

Rumors that Sammamish planned to fence the park and prevent residents from walking their dogs aren’t true, Yazici said.

A group of Klahanie residents has also expressed interest in taking over the park. At press time, representatives from King County, Klahanie and Sammamish were scheduled meet on March 4 to discuss the way forward.

If the park is ultimately transferred to Sammamish, the city would immediately begin maintaining and scheduling the park.

## Grant money pays for E. Lake Sammamish Parkway

Phase 1B of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway project, slated to begin construction in early April, will be paid for entirely with federal money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, otherwise known as the “stimulus.” Sammamish was granted \$3.5 million, which will cover the \$2.7 million construction contract and other related expenses.

Phase 1B, the last parkway segment with any funding in the city’s 6-year transportation plan, was approved in September 2009. It will widen and make seismic improvements to an existing bridge along the parkway and extend other road improvements

about an eighth of a mile north of where the first phase ended.

The improvements will include a center turn lane, median strip, bike lanes, a sidewalk on the east side, and storm water facilities to prevent oil and other pollutants from running off into the lake.

Parkway users should expect single lane closures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., with delays lasting up to 20 minutes. Completion is expected by early fall.

For more information, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP) or contact Project Manager Jeff Brauns (425-295-0561, [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

## It's been 10 years since our last census

### 2010 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES ARRIVE IN THE MAIL THIS MONTH

Given that the federal government allocates \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data, you might want to fill out that census questionnaire when you see it in your mail box.

Residents who need help filling out their questionnaire can go to the new Sammamish Library at 825 228th Ave. S.E.

Staff there will answer questions and provide special language assistance. This service will last for about four weeks, beginning in mid-March when the questionnaires are mailed out.

Households should complete and

mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not re-



spond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers

will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

The Census Bureau has expanded its duties since it was established in 1902. Today, in addition to administering the census of population and housing, the bureau conducts more than 200 annual surveys.

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President on Dec. 31, 2010.

If you would like more information on a variety of subjects regarding the 2010 census, just go online at <http://2010.census.gov/>.

## Arts Commission turns City Hall into a vibrant gallery

### NEW ART EXHIBIT RUNS FROM APRIL 7 UNTIL JUNE 10

Sammamish City Hall, which has become a focal point for the local art community, will open a new exhibit next month featuring the paintings of David Allison.

Allison's art will take its turn as the Sammamish Arts Commission continues its periodic enrichment of City Hall's ambience with new waves of art. The new exhibit will replace "Hardware: A love story," a display of art pieces fashioned from materials available in local hardware stores.

"The Arts Commission has really put a lot of life into City Hall with these great art collections," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "People who come into our lobby really get a pleasant surprise."

Allison's work will be available for viewing during normal City Hall business hours starting April 7.



*Sammamish Arts Commissioners, including alternates (Front row, from left): Rochelle Wyatt, Daphne Robinson, Molly Strange, Anna Macrae. (Back row): Jingyu Li, Bala Subramanian, Deborah Akerstrom, Vinita Karun, Carol Ross, Barbara Jirsa. (Not pictured): Bharath Sankaranarayan, Sarah Brighton, Patti Ward Simpson.*

## Gathering public input on rec center

As they work towards a partnership agreement that will turn the old library into a new recreation center, the city and the Boys & Girls Club are listening to people of all ages to sort out the best way to remodel and program the facility.

To that end, a public meeting was held on March 8 at Inglewood Junior High School, and another one is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 6:30-8 p.m., at Sammamish City Hall.

"We're working hard to capture the community's vision," Parks Director Jessi Richardson said.

"With construction possibly starting as early as August or September, our public outreach needs to be vigorous."

The rec center will focus primarily on serving teens when they're not in the classroom. Toddlers, adults and seniors will also have programs, mostly when students are in school.

After a lease/operating agreement is reached, the Boys &



*In this artist's rendering, a new gymnasium (far left) has been added to the old library building at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road.*

Girls Club will remodel the building and add a gymnasium. The city, which recently purchased the property from the King County Library System, will lease the building to the club.

For more information on the new Boys and Girls Club, contact Executive Director Jane Ronngren at 425-836-9295 or [jronngren@positiveplace.org](mailto:jronngren@positiveplace.org).

## CITY CALENDAR

### MARCH

#### Tuesday, March 2

Finance Committee, 5 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, March 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, March 9

Joint Meeting, Sammamish and Issaquah City Councils, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, March 10

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

Beaver Lake Management District Meeting, 7 p.m.

#### Monday, March 15

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, March 16

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

#### Wednesday, March 17

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Thursday, March 18

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### APRIL

#### Thursday, April 1

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 7

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 13

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

#### Thursday, April 15

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

#### Monday, April 19

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Joint Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 20

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 21

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 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 CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Nancy Whitten  
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*John Curley  
Councilmember*



*John James  
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*



The Sammi Awards celebration, an annual event that honors community-spirited Sammamish residents from all walks of life, is upon us:

**2010 Sammi Awards**  
**Saturday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Mary Queen of Peace**  
**1121 228th Ave. S.E.**

**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.

## 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	AdminServices Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr