

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 105

CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

## 32nd St. barricade to be removed

After a year and a half of public input and traffic analysis, the City Council, following the recommendation of city engineers, voted unanimously on March 1 to remove the barricade on Southeast 32nd Street.

The barrier, put in place many years ago before the road was completed, won't come out until the city makes substantial safety improvements to the corridor. Based on current projections, the barricade should come out this June.

The improvements include stop signs, curb extensions, new sidewalk segments, traffic circles, additional road striping, and the trimming back of vegetation. Responding to neighborhood requests, the city is also considering new sidewalk segments west of the barricade location.

"This has been a very thorough process," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I was delighted to hear residents compliment our engineering staff the night of the vote."

There have been strong differences of opinion on the barricade issue. Opponents of removal have said the new

*See BARRICADE, pg. 7*



*Evans Creek Preserve is located on the northern city limits.*

## Evans Creek Preserve will open this fall thanks to huge volunteer effort

It's going to be a "passive" park – no jungle gyms or ball fields – but it's still going to take a lot of work to get Evans Creek Preserve ready for its fall opening.

The 180-acre parcel, attached to the northern city limits, will need trails, boardwalks and viewing decks so residents can truly enjoy the roll-

ing, peaceful hillsides that make up the city's latest park venture.

To get all the work done, the city is planning to rely on the biggest volunteer effort in city history. It's already started under the leadership of the Washington Trails Association

*See EVANS CREEK, pg. 5*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

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**SAMMI AWARDS**

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## The changing face of Sammamish and the region

In past messages I have mentioned the anecdotal evidence that Sammamish is rapidly becoming more culturally diverse, and how interesting and rewarding that is. Now the obvious has been confirmed by the 2010 US Census (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). Just over ten years ago the 2000 census indicated approximately 8% of our population was of Asian descent. The 2010 census shows that it's now close to 20%, making Asians the most plentiful minority in our city.



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

Another interesting statistic from the 2010 Census: about 32% – almost one third – of our population is under 18 years of age. And, since our total population has increased by about 34%, the number of kids has also increased by about 34%.

Fortunately, Sammamish has expanded recreation opportunities for youngsters, and citizens of all ages (although I haven't seen many grey-haired enthusiasts at the skateboard park), and this year the old library will become a new recreation center in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. Also, a feasibility study is under way regarding the possible development of a community/aquatic center for residents of all ages in our city. I hope you'll stay involved and share your thoughts as that study continues.

Getting back to the 2010 US Census data, here is how Sammamish compares to other eastside cities in some categories:

City:	2010 Population	# of Households	People per Household	% Occupied	% under 18	% Asian
Snoqualmie	10,670	3,761	2.84	94.3	35.0	9.3
Mercer Island	22,699	9,930	2.29	91.7	24.6	15.9
Issaquah	30,434	13,914	2.19	92.3	23.3	17.5
<b>Sammamish</b>	<b>45,780</b>	<b>15,736</b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>19.3</b>
Kirkland	48,787	24,345	2.00	92.2	18.8	11.3
Redmond	54,144	24,177	2.24	93.3	22.7	25.4
Bellevue	122,363	55,551	2.20	90.6	21.2	27.6
<b>Average =</b>			<b>2.38</b>	<b>92.96</b>	<b>25.40</b>	<b>18.4</b>

From this table it's apparent that Sammamish and Snoqualmie have the largest households, with nearly three people per household on the average. This also correlates with the fact that Snoqualmie and Sammamish have the highest percentage of the population under age 18.

Another noteworthy statistic is the occupancy percentage of residences – highest in Sammamish at 96.3% and second highest in Snoqualmie at 94.3%. This is possibly related to the fact that these two cities have a low percentage of rental housing and a high percentage of newer homes.

Looking at these demographics and comparing them to the 2000 Census (which is available at the website noted above), some general conclusions can be drawn:

- Cultural diversity has been increasing throughout the Eastside.

- The Eastside is still a vibrant family-oriented sector of Puget Sound.
- The economic downturn, although impacting everybody, hasn't created huge vacancies in the housing market on the eastside through 2010.

The eastside cities have similar demographics and common problems, so Sammamish electeds and staff meet frequently with their counterparts in neighboring cities addressing issues that know no boundaries.

If you are commuting to Seattle, for example, you might go through four different cities, but your concern is the overall connectivity, be it by auto, transit, or even bicycle. So the eastside electeds meet monthly at the Eastside Transportation Partnership.

Salmon (and Kokanee) issues are addressed at meetings of the WRIA 8 forum (Water Resource Inventory Area number 8) which involves all of

the eastside cities as well as Seattle and King County. Other issues are dealt with through a plethora of regional organizations like the Suburban Cities Association. The SCA represents some 34 of the 39 cities in King County.

Another, the Puget Sound Regional Council, brings electeds and staff from four counties and the state together for regional land use and transportation planning. And, at the state legislative level, all of the 281 cities and towns of the state are represented by the Association of Washington Cities.

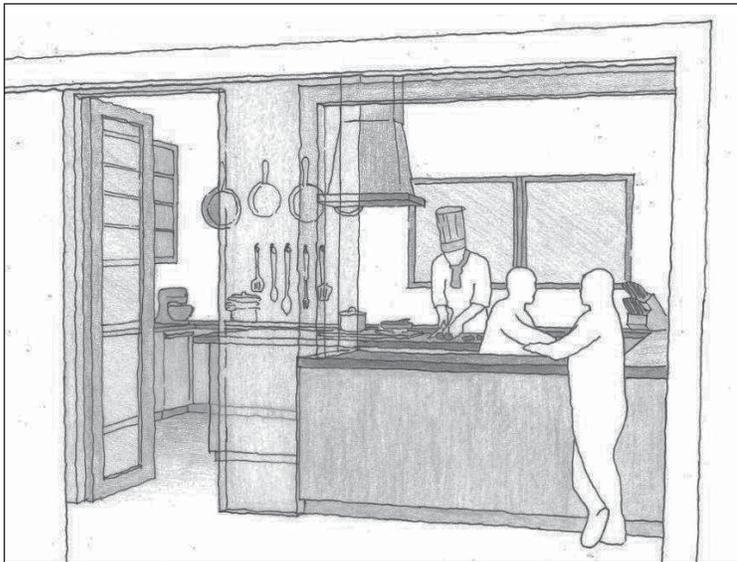
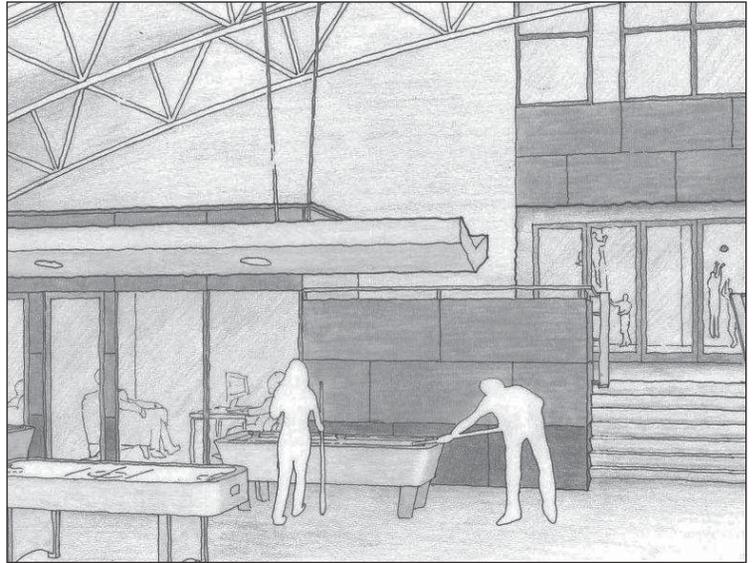
As the demographic and lifestyle patterns change here in Sammamish, these local, regional and state committees, forums and associations are essential for staying ahead of the curve.

## Summer opening expected for Boys & Girls Club

Thanks to a partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Club, a new recreational facility is expected to open in Sammamish just a few months from now.

The new club, which will serve teens and other residents, will be located in the old library building at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road.

“We own the building, so that’s our primary contribution,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The Boys & Girls Club will remodel the building, operate the facility, and raise



- A teaching kitchen
- Multi-purpose space
- A technology lab
- Meeting areas
- Educational and wellness classes
- And, after funds are raised, a full-size gym (7,000 square feet) complete with a climbing wall

“When the new library opened next to the City Hall plaza, we decided to buy the old building so we could use it for something like this,” Yazici said. “It’s exciting to see it all come together this way for our community.”

Residents interested in volunteering or donating funds for the the new Boys & Girls Club should contact Branch Executive Director Jane Ronngren at 425-250-4781 or [jronngren@positiveplace.org](mailto:jronngren@positiveplace.org).

funds to build a new gymnasium sometime in the future.”

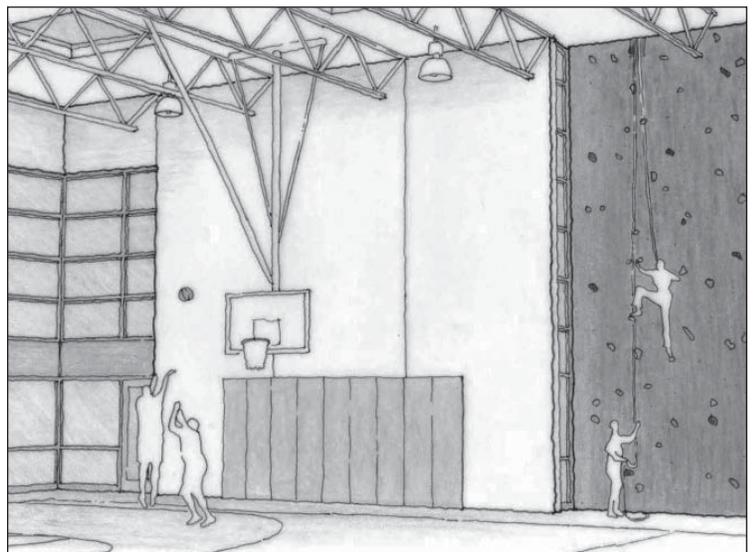
The Boys & Girls Club is obtaining the necessary permits and expects to begin renovating the existing building in April. If everything goes smoothly, the first phase of the club should open sometime this summer.

The recreation center will focus on teens during the after-school hours, but will serve residents of all ages when the teens are in school.

“With more than 6,000 teens in the Sammamish area, it makes sense to provide them with a lot of opportunities,” Yazici said, “but we’ll also see toddlers and seniors enjoying the club. It’s going to be a great addition to our community.”

Among other things, the club will feature:

- Game rooms
- A performance stage



*After funds are raised, a gym will be added sometime in the future.*

## Does a community/aquatics center make sense for Sammamish?

### FEASIBILITY STUDY BEGINS WITH PUBLIC MEETING

Responding to broad and persistent interest from many quarters, the City Council and Parks Commission kicked off a feasibility study for a new community center early this month. It began at a joint meeting on March 8 with councilmembers and commissioners hearing from Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture (BRS), a Denver firm selected to conduct the study.

BRS also attended a community meeting on March 9. The second session, intended to gather input from residents, focused on the community's "hopes, dreams and fears." A similar meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall.

The feasibility study, featuring nu-

merous opportunities for public input, will examine options related to size, location, amenities, programming and design. A final report, expected in July, will also include a market analysis, construction cost estimates, projected operating expenses, conceptual drawings and a site analysis.

"The community will get a very good look at the options during this study," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Do we include a swimming pool? How big should the community center be? What kind of usage fees would make sense? Where will we build it?"

Although the city set aside \$6.3 million in the 2011 budget for potential expenditures related to a commu-

nity center, no decision has been made to move forward.

"It's important to determine 'what we want to build first,' Yazici said. "Then we can move on to an analysis of funding options, assess the viability of the project and identify potential partners.

"We are still in the investigative mode. The City Council will listen to residents and think long and hard before any decision is made," Yazici said.

For more information on the feasibility study or other issues, contact Jessi Richardson, Director of Parks and Recreation, at [jrichardson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jrichardson@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or Project Manager, Anjali Myer, at [amyer@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:amyer@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

## You can help water quality and fish habitat!

Doing your part at home to reduce water pollution may not seem significant, but if even half the homes in your watershed adopt better practices, it would really improve water quality and fish habitat in Sammamish.

So, here are some of the steps you can take as an individual resident:

- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste like paints, oils and anti-freeze. Don't pour it down the storm drain!
- Clean up after Fido. Pet waste is a significant contributor to water pollution in our region; it adds harmful bacteria, phosphorous and nitrogen to our lakes and streams.



- Use compost/mulch in your garden. This natural nutrient source for your plants reduces the need for fertilizers. Compost also holds moisture longer, so you don't have to water as often.

- Go native! Plant native, drought-resistant plants in your garden. This will also reduce the need for water and fertilizer.

- Water deeply, but not often. Water your lawn or garden with one inch of water once a week. It will promote root growth and make your plants more drought tolerant. Also, to reduce water loss from evaporation, don't water during the hottest hours of the day.

## EVANS CREEK, cont. from pg. 1

(WTA), a volunteer organization that began sending out work parties at the beginning of this month.

“The WTA is jump starting our efforts by working on the trails and training volunteers through April,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “Then beginning in June, the city’s volunteer efforts will launch and run into September.

“This is a very exciting and ambitious plan that will rely on our great base of volunteers. We need as many people as possible to pitch in and make a contribution to their community.”

Residents who would like to begin work right away should contact the WTA. Those who want to get started in June should work through the city. (See contact information on this page.)

Much of the volunteer work will be focused on building new trails. Four viewing decks are also in the plans.

“This is going to be a long-term

effort by our volunteers,” Richardson said. “We will be building and maintaining a trails network for years to come.”

The city’s volunteer crews will likely be made up of about 10 to 20 people per day, with supervision

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**“We need as many people as possible to pitch in and make a contribution to their community.”**

*Jessi Richardson  
Parks Director*

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from parks commissioners, city staff and trained volunteers.

The work day will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Although the city will supply water and snacks, volunteers will be asked to bring their own box lunches.

The minimum age for solo volunteers is 14; workers younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

And what are the necessities? Workers will need sturdy shoes and gloves, appropriate clothing, and good physical strength. Although the city will supply tools, volunteers can use their favorite shovels, clip-pers and other implements from home if they wish.

**Become a lead  
volunteer trail steward!**

If you’re interested in this opportunity, you will need to volunteer for three WTA events in March and April, and commit to leading three trail projects this summer. To make the arrangements, please contact Sammamish Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders.

(Contact information below.)



*A tranquil scene in Evans Creek Preserve.*

### Contact info:

Washington Trails Association

[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

(Click on “volunteers,”  
then “trail work parties.”)

or

206-625-1367

City of Sammamish

Volunteer Coordinator  
Dawn Sanders

[dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us)

425-295-0556

## Chinese art on display in City Hall

Before arriving at Sammamish City Hall, the art and calligraphy of Professor Hongduan Yang had been on display in France, Canada, Australia and numerous other international exhibits.

To enjoy the Chinese art now on display, residents should come to City Hall before the exhibit wraps up on March 31. City Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This artist's work, which has won top prizes in many open international exhibitions, is on display thanks to the Sammamish Arts Commission. The commission offers a year-round series of exhibitions at City Hall.

Professor Yang's art pieces have often been selected by China as national gifts for diplomats, and are on display in numerous museums and embassies. In recent years, the professor has taught Chinese art in the United States.



*Professor Hongduan Yang's art in City Hall.*



The ninth annual SAMMI Awards will be handed out to deserving recipients later this month. The SAMMIs are awarded to residents who have displayed community spirit, a commitment to volunteer work, and an array of other valuable qualities.

The award categories are: Arts, Business, Courage, Teen Spirit, Learning Promotion, Trevor Price Award, Unsung Hero, Environment, Youth Advocate and Spirit of Sammamish.

### SAMMI Awards

Friday, March 18, 7 p.m.

### Eastridge Church

24205 S.E. Issaquah-Fall City Road

## City parks director in line for presidency of state association

Jessi Richardson, the city's parks and recreation director, has been elected to the executive board of the Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA).

Beginning in April, Richardson will spend the first year of her term as vice-president. During the remainder of her four-year term she will serve one year as president-elect, one as president, and one as past president.

Among other things, WRPA provides legislative advocacy, workshops, and training for parks professionals. It also

facilitates networking among parks commissioners throughout the state and holds two conferences per year.

"We're delighted that Jessi has decided to take on this added responsibility," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Her presence and leadership will help the as-

sociation, and also ensure that our city's interests are well represented at the state level.

"She's done a great job for the city in a very challenging role," Yazici said. "I'm sure she'll do the same for WRPA."



*Parks Director Jessi Richardson*

# CITY CALENDAR

## MARCH

### Tuesday, March 1

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 2

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

### Thursday, March 3

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 8

Joint Mtg: City Council/Parks Commission, 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 9

Public Meeting: Community/Aquatic Center Feasibility Study, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 10

Joint Mtg: Issaquah/Sammamish City Councils, 6:30 p.m.

Tibbetts Creek Manor (Issaquah) Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 15

City Council office hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 16

Youth Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Naturescaping Seminar, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 17

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Monday, March 21

Joint Mtg: City Council/Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 22

SAMMI Art Collection, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Thursday, March 24

SAMMI Art Reception, 6-8 p.m.

### Saturday, March 26

Volunteer Event, 9 a.m.- noon  
Lower Commons Park

## APRIL

### Tuesday, April 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 6

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

### Thursday, April 7

Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
Front Porch Theater, 7-9 p.m.  
Sammamish Library

### Monday, April 11

Public Meeting: Community/Aquatic Center Feasibility Study, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 12

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

### Friday, April 15

Brian Bonebrake Art Exhibit, 6-8 p.m.

### Monday, April 18

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

### Tuesday, April 19

City Council office hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 20

Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

### Thursday, April 21

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, April 23

Planting at Illahee Trail, 9 a.m.- noon

### Saturday, April 30

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.- noon  
Beaver Lake Lodge  
Earth Day & Volunteer Event  
10 a.m. - 2 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.

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

flow of traffic will change the character of their neighborhood and create safety issues. Those in favor say removal will improve emergency vehicle access, shorten car trips and improve “connectivity.”

The city developed “decision criteria” to evaluate this barricade and others scattered throughout the community. With this decision now complete, the city plans to apply the criteria to a barrier in northern Sammamish on Northeast 42nd Street.

“Every case is different, but we think the decision criteria will be flexible enough to handle varying circumstances,” Yazici said. “We have quite a few barriers to evaluate over time.”

More information is available on the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) by clicking on “projects” and then “connectivity.” Public Works Director Laura Philpot can be reached at [lphilpot@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:lphilpot@ci.sammamish.wa.us).



*The barricade at Southeast 32nd Street.*



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# SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Tom Odell  
Deputy Mayor*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*



*John Curley  
Councilmember*



*John James  
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*

## New City Council meeting schedule

**First Tuesday of each month**  
Regular Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Second Tuesday of each month**  
Council study session, 6:30 p.m.

**Third Monday of each month**  
Regular Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

(NOTE: On occasion a study session and regular meeting may be scheduled for the same night. In that case, the Council will begin deliberations at 5:30 p.m.)

**Council office hours:**  
**Third Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
(This is an opportunity to meet personally with a councilmember.)

### 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
Laura Philpot	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