

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 82

CITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

## Get in on the July 4th blast!

**CITY WELCOMES RISING INTEREST FROM SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Attendance at last year's Fourth on the Plateau celebration swelled to an estimated 12- to 14-thousand people, but thanks to sponsors and volunteers, the cost of mounting the biggest event in city history actually shrank.

"We spent less in city funds last year than we did in 2007," said Director of Administrative Services Mike Sauerwein. "With the continued help of residents and the business community, we're hoping eventually to reduce the city costs to zero."

With that goal in mind, the city has thrown open the doors to new sponsors and volunteers via the event webpage ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/4thjuly.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/4thjuly.aspx)).

Dawn Sanders, one of the city's event organizers, says the webpage will lead potential sponsors and volunteers to the proper information.

"There are a variety of sponsorship

*See FOURTH, page 3*



*Project Engineer Tawni Hoang, Construction Inspector Jack Dompier and Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus stand by the new library's stormwater retention pipes.*

## Library uses new and old ways to capture stormwater

When the new library opens up early next year, it will immediately get into the absorption business: The kids will be soaking up knowledge, and the building will be soaking up water.

"The new library is going to use both traditional and new, cutting edge

ways of capturing stormwater," Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus said. "And it all starts on the roof."

Instead of running into gutters, rain will slowly absorb into the library's "rain roof," a soil and vegetation surface

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**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**  
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**CITY FINANCES SPARKLE**  
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**SAMMI AWARDS**  
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## Partnering with the Federal Government

Councilmember Lee Felling and I recently attended the National League of Cities Federal Legislative



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

Conference in Washington, D.C.

This was an opportunity for us to hear about Federal programs, to learn from our peers, and to interact with our congressional delegation and representatives of the admin-

istration.

Conference speakers included cabinet members as well as various staff members of congressional committees; Senator Susan Collins, (R) Maine; and even Chris Matthews of MSNBC.

The central focus of most of the conference general session speakers was, of course, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This \$787 billion stimulus program has a goal of spending a lot of money fast to create jobs and lessen the individual pain of the current economic decline.

The message we received from all of the president's men and women was that President Obama wants to renew the partnership with local government and listen to us as we work together on implementing this bold plan.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood emphasized the administration's desire to put people to work quickly while holding local and

state agencies accountable to do the projects in a transparent manner.

Our city's commitment is to do just that with the \$3.5 million in ARRA funds that will be going into the East Lake Sammamish Parkway project.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder expressed the need to improve the relationship between federal law enforcement and our cities. Nationwide in the last eight years there has been a nine percent decrease in police officers per capita.

In the ARRA program there is \$1 billion to revitalize the office of Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) program. There is a competitive grant program for three years of funding for additional police officers and Sammamish is working with King County on a request for some of this funding.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson expressed the Obama administration goal of reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. There are ARRA funds available for programs related to smart growth, green jobs and clean energy.

Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu (a Nobel prize winning physicist, and, finally, a DOE administrator with science credentials) talked about new green industries.

He touched upon such topics as a new grass biofuel (four times as efficient as using corn, for example), wind turbines and solar panels, weatherization, and the development of a smart electrical grid (with electric meters which charge a different rate depending on the instantaneous overall elec-

trical demand).

He pointed out that with over 60 percent of American oil demands being met by foreign sources, we must focus on reducing this through conservation, energy efficiency, more fuel efficient vehicles and alternative energy sources. These are areas where we all can contribute.

Secretary Shaun Donovan of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) said that the billions of ARRA funds being administered by his department were going to such programs as public housing, energy efficiency (working with the Department of Energy on the weatherization industry), and to help unlock affordable projects that are stalled by the credit market.

He said that he was committed to helping cities with transit-oriented and inclusionary housing as well as implementing a homeowner affordability and stability program. These are areas where Sammamish might have opportunities to partner with the federal government.

In summary, it was very refreshing to hear over and over again about the desire of the administration to be a partner with the cities and states, as we all work towards improving the economy and the livability of our communities.

To learn more about the National League of Cities, go to [www.nlc.gov](http://www.nlc.gov), and to learn more about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) go to [www.recovery.org](http://www.recovery.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

## Maintenance and Operations Center takes shape

With construction due to commence in November, the city's new Maintenance and Operation Center is now in the design stage. The center, which will house staff and equipment devoted to maintenance of city roads, parks and other infrastructure, will be located on 4.8 acres just west of 244th Avenue near Northeast 18th Street.

The facility will also provide space for minor servicing of vehicles, the city's sign shop and storage for a variety of materials. Total budget, covering land, design and construction: \$5.3 million. Project Manager Sevda Baran can be contacted at [sbaran@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:sbaran@ci.sammamish.wa.us). For additional information on the project, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/OandMFacility.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/OandMFacility.aspx).



*An artist's rendering of what the new public works shop could look like after completion in late 2010. Design development is continuing through May 2009 with construction scheduled to begin in November 2009.*

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

levels and volunteer opportunities," Sanders said. "Based on the interest level we've had historically, and what we've seen so far in 2009, we expect that webpage to stay busy for the next two or three months."

The website also guides potential concessionaires through the application process and provides residents general information about the event.

Sanders said a pair of major sponsorships are still available – for the music stage and the picnic pavillion in the lower Commons.

"But we have a lot of smaller sponsorship opportunities as well," Sanders said. "For example, we're offering what we call 'community level' sponsorships for just \$500."

With three months to go before the fireworks go off, the city is looking for "lead volunteers" to help organize and direct a small army of community-oriented residents who will help with parking, trash pickup, play area supervision and a variety of other support functions.

"The participation of the residents and the business community is what makes this event special," Sanders said. "When people arrive, they see their neighbors helping out, they see local businesses taking part, and that's what makes it feel like a broad-based community production."

The center of gravity at the 2009 edition of the Fourth on the Plateau will shift a bit toward the lower bowl of Sammamish Commons thanks to the ongoing construction of the new library next to City Hall.

"That should actually work great for families," Sanders said. "We're planning to enlarge the kids play area in the northwest quadrant of the Commons. That's where the bulk of the family activities will take place."



*Residents gather for the 2008 Fourth on the Plateau.*

## City police officer battles breast cancer

### COUNCIL SHOWS SUPPORT WITH "PINK DAY" PROCLAMATION

During her two-and-a-half years as a patrol officer on the streets of Sammamish, Starla Martin has earned a reputation as a "caring and compassionate" protector of the law, according to Sammamish Police Chief Brad Thompson.

Last month, during a special ceremony at a City Council meeting, Officer Martin, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, received her own share of care and compassion from a large crowd of friends and colleagues.

"It was very nice to see so many of her fellow officers showing support," Thompson said. "All of us are looking forward to her complete recovery and a quick return to the ranks."

Martin was scheduled to undergo surgery on March



*King County Sheriff Sue Rahr (left) shows her support for Officer Starla Martin as the City Council declares March 25 as "Pink Day" in Sammamish.*

25, a date the City Council designated as "Pink Day" in Sammamish. Martin, a King County Sheriff's deputy since 1995, works in Sammamish as part of the city's police services contract with the sheriff's department.

## Inspirational residents honored at Sammi's EIGHTH ANNUAL EVENT CELEBRATES COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SPIRIT



*Dellann Elliott  
Spirit of Sammamish Award*

At what several observers said was one of the best Sammi Awards ever, ten outstanding Sammamish residents were honored at Eastlake High School on the evening of March 14.

The highlight moment came when Dellann Elliott, at the end of the celebration, received the "Spirit of Sammamish" award, bestowed for her work on behalf of cancer research, education and awareness. Following the death of her husband, she formed the Chris Elliott Fund and has since raised almost \$1 million for cancer programs.

Among many other honors, Elliott was named as a national glioblastoma patient advocate by Harvard University.

The other Sammi Award recipients were:

were:

- **Arts** - Sondra Hopper
- **Business** - Deb Sogge
- **Courage** - Matt Larsen
- **Learning Promotion** - Karen Bach
- **Trevor Price Award** - Monisha Gulabani
- **Teen Spirit** - Max Sussman
- **Unsung Hero** - Julia Williams
- **Youth Advocate** - Brent Campbell
- **Founders Award** - Kristin Pitt

For more details on the honorees and the event, go to [www.sammi-awards.org](http://www.sammi-awards.org).

## City finances sparkle in yearly audit

### THRIFTY HABITS ALSO EARN HIGHEST (AAA) BOND RATING

When state auditors see something amiss in a city's practices, they issue "findings," a nice word for "you're doing something wrong."

And even if nothing rises to the level of a finding, they usually hand over a "management letter" detailing areas of concern. This year, the city got off scot-free – no findings and no management items.

"I'm very proud of the city's record," City Manager Ben Yazici. "It's very unusual for a city to not even get a management item. Our staff has done a great job during tough economic times."

The good news on the audit, which wrapped up last month, was preceded by Standard and Poor's bestowal of a AAA bond rating, the highest rating it issues. Among other things, the rating agency credited the city with excellent long-term financial planning, a "pay as you go" approach, and very thrifty habits.

"We have always kept our city staff small," Yazici said. "We have only 1.8 employees per thousand in population."

That compares to about 5 employees per thousand for most of Sammamish's peer cities, although Yazici cautions people not to assume that other cities are

being wasteful.

"Our figures look good for two reasons," Yazici said. "One, we haven't dramatically expanded staff when times were good, and two, we're not a full-service city like some others are."

In recent months, the city has burished its reputation for thrift by delaying some capital expenditures, not filling open positions, and asking staffers to expand their responsibilities.

"Of course, you can't rest on your laurels," Yazici said. "The auditors will be back again next year to make sure we're doing a good job for the taxpayers of Sammamish."

## City expands public input on shoreline regulations

Responding to numerous expressions of interest and concern regarding the Shoreline Master Program Update, the City Council decided last month to add two more opportunities for residents to weigh in on the state-mandated review of existing shoreline regulations.

The two evening meetings – one scheduled for March 31; the other for April 20 – were designed to let residents gather around "dialogue tables" and exchange perspectives with neighbors, city staff and consultants.

"Over the past two years, residents have had many opportunities to learn about and comment on the shoreline update," City Manager Ben Yazici said, "but this is very complicated material. I think

the council made the right choice in expanding the public input process."

At the April 20 meeting, which will be at City Hall from 5:30-7:30 p.m., different topics will be discussed at different tables, with residents given the opportunity to refine current language and suggest

alternative approaches for the Update.

The City Council is scheduled to continue their review during study sessions on May 12 and 18, listen to more comment during a second public hearing on June 2, and adopt the update sometime this summer.

Among other things, shoreline residents have expressed concern about limitations on the use of their land, and the fact that the same rules won't apply to non-shoreline residents.

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 ([mvannostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:mvannostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us), 425-295-0538).



*The Shoreline Master Program Update hearing drew a big crowd.*

## Celebrating Earth Day!

Two volunteer events have been selected by the city of Sammamish to celebrate Earth Day.

One is a family-friendly park clean up event for those with young children at Pine Lake Park on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. Tasks will include planting, removing ivy, and picking up fallen branches.

The other is a more difficult invasive plant removal effort along the Ilahee Trail, also on Saturday, April 18, but beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers at this site will remove weeds at Llama Landing come rain or shine.

Please register by contacting Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders at [dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0556.

## Spring Recycling Event

If you have tires, motor oil, filters, anti-freeze, batteries, propane tanks, porcelain toilets, TV sets, computers and a long list of other items you want to get rid

of in a responsible way, you're invited to the Sammamish Spring Recycling Event on Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The recycling event, co-sponsored by the city and King County, will be held at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E.

Among the items not allowed: scrap metal, garbage, mattresses, window glass, oil-based paint, pesticides, solvents and fluorescent lights.

For more information about volume restrictions and other disposal options, visit [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/disposal](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/disposal) or call the Household Hazards line at 206-296-4692.

## Rain Barrel Sale on April 25

The city of Sammamish will offer discounted rain barrels for sale at the Spring Recycling Event on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E.

The barrels, which normally retail for \$100, will be on sale for only \$25 to Sammamish residents. Supplies are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. These high-quality rain barrels hold 55 gallons of rainwater.

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

that will act like a sponge.

"There will also be a rain garden next to the library," Butkus said. "It'll be full of plants that love to absorb water."

To further reduce runoff, the parking lot will feature 4,000 square feet of "porous" pavement, a surface that allows water to percolate into the soil below.

The library will also rely on some underground storage pipes eight feet in diameter to capture and hold runoff during a rain storm. These traditional reservoirs can hold up to 16,000 cubic feet of stormwater while slowly releasing the water

into a nearby wetland. Polluted stormwater from the parking lot area will be filtered through a special media mix designed to remove nutrients such as phosphorous.

"It's a very comprehensive approach," Butkus said. "These days, big

new buildings don't need to translate into acres of impervious surface."

The new \$16.3 million library being built by the King County Library System will be roughly twice the size of the current library at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road. In addition to more computers, materials and space for young people, the new library will also feature a community meeting room.

To see construction progress, go to [www.sier-raind.com/cams/cam6.html](http://www.sier-raind.com/cams/cam6.html). This "webcam" shows a new picture of the construction site every 30 seconds.



# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Skyline cheer champs recognized by city

Based on appearances before the City Council, the 2008/2009 school year has been a parade of excellence for Skyline High School.

On March 3, the Spartan cheerleaders, newly crowned WIAA state champions, were recognized with a special proclamation in the council chambers.

They followed in the footsteps of the Spartan football team and girls' soccer team, whose members were honored for their state titles at previous council meetings.

The cheerleaders, in only their third year of competition, took the top spot at the state championship in January.



*Mayor Don Gerend with the Skyline High School WIAA State Cheerleading Champions at the March 3 City Council meeting. Front row from the left: Ali DeMatteo, Brittany Bjorklund, Kelsey Kuberski, Kristi Nikaitani, Dani Cogswell, Kelly Butler, Stephania Lemeszko. Back Row from the Left: Lauren Malik, Brittney Johnson, Kristen Kern, Melanie Robb. Not Pictured: Jamie Scarr, Blake Jahnke, Mallory Hutchings, Michelle Aanenson, Leah Spokoiny, Kindsi Lora and Axie Dompier.*

## CITY CALENDAR

### APRIL

**Thursday, Apr. 2**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Apr. 7**

City Council, Regular Meeting and Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Apr. 8**

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

**Tuesday, Apr. 14**

City Council, Special Meeting and Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Apr. 15**

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.  
Beaver Lake Park Master Plan Public Meeting #1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Apr. 16**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Monday, Apr. 20**

Shoreline Master Program Update Dialogue Tables, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Apr. 21**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Apr. 30**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

### MAY

**Tuesday, May 5**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 7**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 12**

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

**Wednesday, May 13**

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

**Monday, May 18**

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, May 19**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Artist Reception, 6-8 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 20**

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 21**

Planning Commission Mtg, 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.

# 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 Places to Eat in Sammamish...

1. Pine Lake Ale House
2. DC Grill
3. Lanponi Thai
4. Taco Time
5. Rancho Grande
6. Grocery store
7. McDonalds
8. La Casita
9. Home
10. Jack in the Box

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

## 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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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Gurol	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Asst City Mgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr



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