

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 81

CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

Parkway bids plummet

\$2 MILLION UNDER ENGINEER ESTIMATES

Thanks to a favorable bidding climate brought on by a troubled economy, the current phase of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway project will cost the city \$6.1 million for construction. That's \$2.1 million less than engineers' estimates.

"We knew we would save money in this climate," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "But \$2.1 million exceeded our expectations. This is great news."

The parkway project will reconfigure the intersection at Inglewood Hill Road and extend improvements north along the parkway for about four-tenths of a mile. In addition to accommodating an increasing flow of traffic, the project will also make major safety and environmental improvements.

These include a median strip-center turn lane, bike lanes, storm water facilities, and a sidewalk. The contract was awarded to SCI Infrastructure, a Pierce County contractor, on Feb. 18.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-March. Substantial completion of the project is expected by this September.



A home along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish.

Council mulls required shoreline update

After almost three years of study, public input, and consultation with the state's department of ecology, the city is closing in on decision time for the Shoreline Master Program Update, a state-mandated review of policies and regulations governing the city's three major lakes – Pine Lake, Beaver Lake and Lake Sammamish.

With its focus on buffers, dock lengths, impervious surface require-

ments, lot dimensions and public access, among other things, the update is of particular interest to lakeside residents.

"As the council wrestles with this, we hope residents will continue to share their thoughts and concerns," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We need to balance the interests of lake-

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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TROUBLE WITH PEDDLERS?

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SUB-BASIN PLANS

Story on page 4

Help us lobby Sound Transit:

In the last year, two “events” caused me to once again think about Sammamish transit options and needs. The first was when gas prices peaked over \$4 per gallon last summer. For a typical commute trip of over 15 miles one way, that meant it was costing Sammamish commuters \$5 to \$10 per day in gas alone. Transit ridership all over Puget Sound increased tremendously, and many Sammamish commuters experimented with transit for the first time. Now, with gas prices at about one half of the peak levels, many of those new transit riders are sticking with the buses, converts to a new way of thinking about commuting.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

The other “event” happened in December with the extended period of snow and ice. Most of the gas stations here in Sammamish ran out of gas, because the tanker truck supply chain was disrupted. In this case the interruption was only a few days, but one can consider it a harbinger of possible future scenarios wherein regional or world geopolitics might result in prolonged periods of unavailability (or extremely high prices).

The current world-wide recession, with its reduced demand for oil, might lull us into a sense of complacency, but planning for the future should be a part of our daily lives, individually and as a community. Part of future planning is to focus on transit (other considerations such as plug-in hybrids, electric cars and alternative energy sources are subjects for a future discussion). What are the transit choices in Sammamish now and

what does the future hold for possible improvements in transit service?

Sammamish is serviced almost exclusively by Metro Transit with two basic routes, Route 216 and Route 269, plus a Route 927 DART (Dial-A-Ride Transit) which operates from NE 8th south to Issaquah. Details regarding these routes can be found on the Metro website (www.kingcounty.gov/metro) or by calling 1-800-542-3000, or by picking up the Metro literature at the library or at City Hall.

Currently, the Route 269 operates weekdays between Issaquah Transit Center and Redmond via Issaquah Highlands and 228th Ave./Sahalee Way in Sammamish. It runs for three to four hours in the morning, and four hours in the afternoon, a total of about 17 runs each way per day. In addition, the Route 927 runs hourly during the day, Monday through Saturday, connecting Sammamish with Issaquah via Klahanie and some off route dial-up areas.

The other Metro route servicing Sammamish is the Route 216, which provides fairly direct service into Seattle weekday mornings, with interim stops at Eastgate and Mercer Island. There are six rush hour runs in the morning going into Seattle from Sahalee Way south along 228th, and six runs in the afternoon returning northward along 228th and Sahalee Way that leave Seattle between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

With Metro's revenues largely dependent on a share of sales taxes (only about 22% comes from riders via the fare box), the budget is really struggling during this recession and the best we can hope for is maintenance of current service.

Now in addition to working to enhance Metro transit service to Sam-

mamish, we have been able to convince Sound Transit to get some service to Sammamish. At this time Sound Transit (www.soundtransit.org) provides two early morning runs of their Route 554 leaving the South Sammamish Park and Ride lot at 4:47 a.m. and 5:25 a.m. and traveling to Seattle via Issaquah Highlands, Issaquah, Eastgate and Mercer Island. The Route 554 also provides five runs back in the evening from Seattle, arriving at the South Sammamish Park & Ride lot between 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. The significance of these evening Sound Transit Route 554 runs is that it allows Sammamish commuters to remain in Seattle as late as 11:30 p.m., if necessary, and still get a bus back to Sammamish.

The problem is that those evening runs of the Sound Transit 554 do not continue north along 228th Ave. and Sahalee Way, so Route 216 morning commuters from the central and northern bus stops in Sammamish who want to return to Sammamish in the evening would end up at the South Sammamish P&R lot. We have been asking Sound Transit boardmembers and staff to send those evening run Route 554 buses back to base via 228th Ave and Sahalee Way, so that central and north Sammamish commuters can get back home, but thus far we have had no success.

So, citizens of Sammamish, here is a chance to add your voice to those of Sammamish staff and electeds. E-mail the Sound Transit boardmembers (main@soundtransit.org, attention boardmembers) and make the above request of them. This city of 40,000 needs more transit service, and, as the old saying goes, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Get ready for a healthier, prettier Pine Lake Park

When swimmers and fishing aficionados return to Pine Lake Park this year, they'll see a dramatically improved public resource that bears little resemblance to the park the city inherited from King County.

The latest wave of improvements, which are clustered near the water, include reforestation of the shoreline, a renovated beach and dock area, and a new picnic terrace. The cost: \$1.5 million.

"The park shoreline will open up no later than April 25, the first day of fishing season," Project Manager Mark Vysoky said. "I think people are going to like what they see."

Other improvements to the area include wood beam fences, new walkways, a canoe launch, and an attractive array of logs and boulders along the shore to prevent erosion. City Manager Ben Yazici says the project balances public access with protection of the environment.

"I think the changes we've made to Pine Lake Park over



Shoreline improvements at Pine Lake Park begin to take shape.

the years show that it's possible to improve the facilities at a park and make it healthier and more sustainable at the same time," Yazici said. "This is going to be an absolute jewel."

Earlier improvement phases renovated a ball field, created a new parking lot, and added picnic shelters, climbing walls and a new sports court, among other things.

SHORELINE, cont. from pg. 1

side residents, the health of our lakes, and the values of the community at large."

It's a balancing act that must weigh the interests of home owners concerned about limitations placed on their property and the requirements of the department of ecology, which has the final say on whether the update is acceptable.

"It does us no good to submit something ecology is going to reject," Yazici said. "Like all cities, we're being asked to walk a fine line."

In search of that sweet spot, the City Council is taking public input and reviewing recommendations received from the Planning Commission.

"The council is going to hold public hearings on March 17 and May 5," Yazici said. "Residents will also be able to weigh in at a number of other public meetings as well."

The full list of public meetings can be viewed on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx. This web page also contains a vast amount of other information on the Shoreline Master Program Update. Project Manager Maren Van Nostrand can be contacted at mvannostrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0538.



Beaver Lake

Help the city develop sub-basin plans

INFORMATION ON THOMPSON AND INGLEWOOD SUB-BASINS WILL BE REVIEWED AT PUBLIC MEETING ON MARCH 25

Working with scientists from a consulting firm, the city is devising a plan to safeguard the health of two vital drainage basins on the west side of the city.

As part of that process, residents are invited to review available information on the Thompson and Inglewood sub-basins at a public meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall. Residents will also be asked for their input.

“We’re looking forward to a two-way conversation with residents,” Senior Stormwater Program Engineer Eric LaFrance said. “We’ll present what we’ve discovered, but we need people to share their concerns and ideas with us.”

The scientists, who have walked the streams and wetlands in the sub-basins, are also working with computer models to forecast the potential impact of additional development.

“They started in December,” LaFrance said. “After we integrate the input from the public and other sources, we’ll develop a draft plan for the City Council and public to review.”

Among other things, the plan will likely call for stream restoration, culvert replacements, and a variety of other investments in the health of the sub-basins. If necessary, the plan will also adjust regulations to better protect the terrain that carries rainwater down to Lake Sammamish.

There is already a plan in place for the Inglewood sub-basin, but it’s being updated to reflect the potential impacts of the new Town Center. The Thompson sub-basin is also of special interest because it feeds Ebright Creek, one of only three streams on Lake Sammamish that still feature Kokanee salmon runs.

“Taking care of the sub-basins will help the salmon, and help us meet our obligation to be good stewards of the environment,” LaFrance said.

For more information about the public process, LaFrance can be reached at 425-295-0562 or elafrance@ci.sammamish.wa.us. The City Council is expected to adopt the plan in late 2009 or early 2010.

Peddlers have you concerned?

By state law, the city of Sammamish is not allowed to ban peddlers or others who go from door to door inside the city limits. All peddlers, however, are required to have a city of Sammamish license, and must display that license upon the request of a resident.

Some tips for dealing with peddlers:



- If you feel uncomfortable, don’t open the door. If the peddler persists or looks in your window, call 9-1-1.
- If you open the door, ask to see their city of Sammamish license. If they don’t produce the license, ask them to leave or tell them you will contact police.
- If you would like additional information on peddlers, contact Deputy City Clerk Stacy Herman at 425-295-0512.

Public input needed for Beaver Lake Park of the future

Residents will be asked what improvements they would like to see – or not see – at Beaver Lake Park during the city’s Model Master Planning Process, scheduled for this spring and summer. Public meetings will begin later this month.

To take part, residents should go to the project webpage at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/BeaverLake.aspx and obtain the latest public meeting information and background material. An online survey regarding the park will also be available on the webpage soon.

Beaver Lake Park, an 83-acre facility in the southeast quadrant of the city, was transferred to the city from King County in January 2003. Although incremental improvements have been made in recent years, the master planning process will feature a comprehensive approach with plentiful opportunities for residents to weigh in.

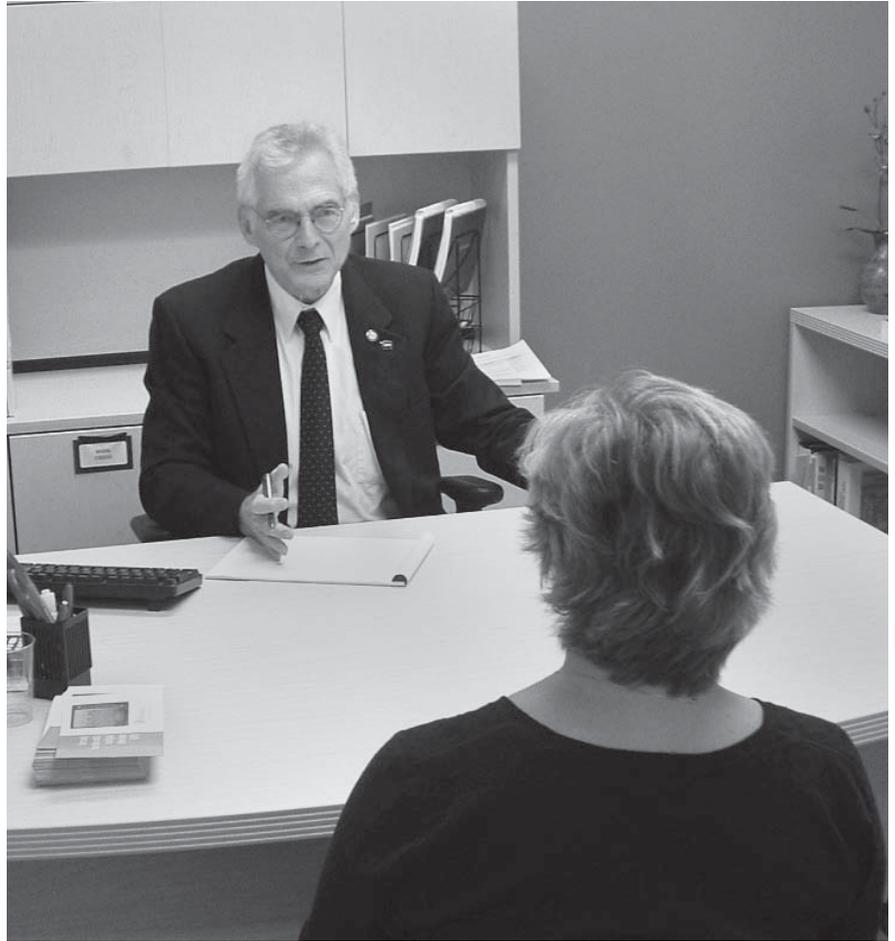
Chat with with a councilmember

If running into a City Council member in the frozen food aisle doesn't present enough of an opportunity, residents will soon be able to pop into City Hall for a one-on-one chat with one of their elected representatives.

"Councilmembers have always met with individual residents on an informal basis or through appointments," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "But they've decided to add office hours at City Hall to broaden those opportunities."

Beginning Feb. 25, at least one councilmember will be present at City Hall every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The City Council office is just off the front lobby, immediately to the left after entering the front door. No appointments will be necessary.

"This will be a great opportunity for residents who want to do more than address the council during the public comment period at formal meetings," Yazici said. "This will allow for a more personal, back-and-forth experience."



Mayor Don Gerend in the City Council office at City Hall.



"I have to wear a leash now?"

Loose dogs unleash a wave of complaints

With the exception of the city's new off-leash dog park, canine companions in Sammamish are supposed to be on a leash. Unfortunately, based on a steady stream of complaints to City Hall, too many dog owners are letting their pets run free.

"It's not just that the dogs are off the leash," Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus said. "It's that too many dog owners are not following proper pickup protocol, so to speak."

Many residents have complained of pet waste in parks and even on artificial turf athletic fields, Butkus said. To alleviate the problem, the city is asking for all residents to comply with the leash and pickup rules.

For those who want to set their dogs free, the city's Off-leash Park is located just east of the Beaver Lake ball fields off 244th Avenue Southeast.

Living with bears, bobcats and cougars in Sammamish

Early next month, Washington Fish and Wildlife staff will present a seminar on co-existing with bears, bobcats, and cougars inside the city of Sammamish. Residents concerned about living with wildlife are invited to attend the presentation on Monday, April 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at City Hall.

The seminar will be led by Bruce Richards. Among other things, he will bring bear traps, stuffed wildlife, and a bear dog trained to go after grizzly bears. Despite the dog's tough duty, Richards says the dog is friendly with kids.

The purpose of the public event is to teach residents how to maintain their properties so the chance of having an unwanted interaction with a local, four-footed carnivore is reduced. Richards takes the bear dog to public schools throughout western Washington to teach kids how to interact safely with wildlife.

Richards estimates there are between four and twelve bears inside Sammamish city limits, and notes that they came out of hibernation early this year.

Right now, there is also a bobcat with one kitten roaming around the southern end of Southeast 212th Avenue. And, there is the occasional report of a cougar travelling through the northern portion of the city.

For more information on the wildlife seminar, contact the city's joan burlingame at either 425-295-0547 or jburlingame@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Native plant stewardship

Residents who want to learn about native plant landscaping and habitat restoration should take advantage of a new city partnership with the Washington Native Plant Society. The deadline to apply for this popular 10-week training program is March 18. Thanks to a subsidy from the city, four applicants will be able to attend at no charge.

The classes, taught by top professionals, will be held on Fridays, from April 24 to June 26, in Bellevue. For more information, call 206-527-3210 or visit the program website at www.wnps.org.

Plans afoot for city's 10th birthday

Although it's still in the brainstorming phase, planning is underway for a memorable celebration of the city's 10th anniversary. The big birthday party, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29, will be held at Sammamish Commons.

"It's been a quick 10 years since incorporation in 1999," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're looking forward to having a very enjoyable community celebration."

Aside from family fun, food and the placement of a time capsule, the details for the party are still being worked out. To start building the excitement, however, the city will focus on the number "Ten" by conducting a monthly online survey that will answer questions like:

- What are the top 10 things you like about Sammamish?
- What are the top 10 prettiest spots in Sammamish?
- What are the 10 best ice cream flavors in Sammamish?

And so on. Keep your eye out for details on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

New art exhibit at City Hall

Entitled "Winter Remedies," the new art exhibit in City Hall features the work of water color artist Georgia Quick, fiber artist Becky Kaufman, and quilter Jean Brautigam Mills. Arranged by the Sammamish Arts Commission, the exhibit, located in the entryway of City Hall, will be on display through May 1 during normal business hours.

Chamber of Commerce event: "Celebrating Women in Business"

Author Susan Scott and a panel of other women will talk about "Thriving in Challenging Economic Times" during a special presentation by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce.

The event, on Sunday, March 22, 1-5 p.m., will be held at the Plateau Club, 25625 E. Plateau Drive. The event comes under the chamber's heading of "Celebrating Women in Business."

Other presenters will include Jana Williams of Edward Jones, Inc., Nancy Juetten of Main Street Media-Savvy, Tammy Redmon of Redmon and Associates, Samira Badshah of Cascade Bank and Anh Vo of Guided Path. More information on the event is available at www.sammamishchamber.org.

City is “outstanding” environmental steward

SAMMAMISH HONORED BY KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Noting that the city has “consistently shown leadership in critical areas protection and enhancement,” the King Conservation District has awarded Sammamish the “Local Government Conservation Award” for a pair of aquatic area protection projects.

One of those initiatives, the Zaccuse Creek Daylighting Project, restored a 165-foot stream channel between the East Lake Sammamish trail and the lake itself.

“Before we did this restoration, the water just passed through an underground pipe,” stormwater engineer Eric LaFrance said. “There used to be a lawn where you now see a ‘daylighted’ creek.”

This section of Zaccuse Creek, newly fish friendly, passes between homes along Lake Sammamish. If and when time and resources allow, the city hopes to extend



The city’s award-winning Zaccuse Creek restoration project.

the stream restoration farther upstream.

The city was also recognized for the Gazebo Bog Culvert Replacement Project, an effort that will eliminate flooding and restore summer flows through the bog in northeast Sammamish.

“Our City Council has always made environmental stewardship a priority,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s always rewarding when the city’s work is recognized.”

CITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday, Mar. 3
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 5
Planning Commission Mtg, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 10
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 11
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 16
Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 17
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 18
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 19
Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

APRIL

Thursday, Apr. 2
Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Apr. 7
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr. 8
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Apr. 14
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr. 15
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Apr. 16
Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Apr. 20
Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Apr. 21
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Apr. 30
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*



This year's Sammi awards celebration, an event that honors community-spirited residents in a number of different categories, is just around the corner.

The seventh annual Sammi Awards are scheduled to be bestowed on Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E.

For additional information on the community awards ceremony, please go to the Sammi Awards website at www.sammiawards.org.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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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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