



# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 56

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

## Major progress on Town Center

### Preferred alternative due in April

After months of work, the volunteer Town Center Committee will hand off some important recommendations to the City Council and Planning Commission on Feb. 20.

The committee's recommendations will touch on key components for a preferred alternative that is expected to be developed by the council in April.

All of this comes on the heels of the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which was released Jan. 31 with a comment period that runs through 5 p.m. on March 2.

"This is an exciting time for us," said Director of Community Development

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A skateboarder "catches some air" at the city's new skate park along 228th Avenue SE. The new City Hall can be seen in the background.

## City opens new skate park

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor wind, nor gloom of night" will keep skateboarders from their appointed rounds at the city's new skate park.

That slightly adapted version of the mailman's creed is well-suited to the scene outside City Hall, where youngsters of all ages have been giving the 16,000-square-foot, 24-hour-a-day facility a heavy workout despite bad winter weather.

"The snow slowed them up a little bit," said Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus, "but they've been out there in some pretty nasty conditions. With warmer weather, it's going to be a great attraction for our kids." Although the city does not su-

pervise activity at the skate park, it's within easy view of anyone doing business at City Hall or walking along 228th Avenue.

"We learned from other cities that you don't want to hide skate parks away somewhere," Butkus said. "They work better when they're visible to everyone passing by."

The new facility, which cost \$300,000 to build, is lit for night use. In addition to skateboards, it's also open to scooters, in-line skates, and bikes.

"We have a place to go now," a young man at the skate park said earlier this month. "It's a lot better than being thrown out of parking lots."



Mark Cross  
Mayor

As a resident of Sammamish for two decades, I think I'm well acquainted with the kind of people who live in our community. But since I joined the City Council, I've

benefited from an up-close and personal look at just how committed and selfless some of our residents are.

Specifically, I'm talking about the talented and knowledgeable people who make up our Planning Commission. The long hours they spend examining land use issues, and plowing through the minutiae and complexity that is part and parcel of devising land use policy, should qualify them for a municipal medal – or some kind of civic sainthood.

Scot Jarvis, the chairman of our first Planning Commission, guided his

colleagues through a labyrinth of details and produced new net density and critical areas ordinances for the City Council to review and adopt. His group also pushed the boulder forward as we undertook the creation of new development impact fees and a long-term transportation plan.

It's hard to describe how much intellectual heft – and tolerance for tedium – our planning commissioners bring to their task. Whether it's Scot and his group, or new Chairman Bob Conger and his group, this community owes them a great debt.

They are the unpaid public servants who take a long view of the future, and make sure the decades to come will be what we all hope for. We're fortunate that we have residents who will trade their valuable time, not for money, but for the intellectual challenge and satisfaction of public service.

Since we incorporated in 1999, this first and second wave of planning commissioners have taken on enormous challenges. But there are more to come.

The Shoreline Management Master Program Update, which amounts to a comprehensive plan for our shorelines, is a major challenge. Incorporating low-impact development principles in our code is another. And perhaps most daunting, the Planning Commission is playing a central role in the development of our Town Center plan, a map for the future that will guide and define what Sammamish will look like for the next century or two.

Thank you planning commissioners; we're fortunate to have you on the job.



A scene along Lake Sammamish.

## Windstorm stirs tree anxiety

Sammamish is noted for its forested hillsides and tree-lined neighborhood streets, but based on the number of inquiries coming in to City Hall, the December windstorm has more than a few residents reaching for chainsaws.

"It was frightening to see the damage caused by falling trees, or to hear the news reports about close escapes, but I hope people will take a breath or two before they ask for a permit to cut down trees," Kathy Curry, the city's wetland biologist, said. "In most cases, there's no reason to cut down healthy trees."

Permits are required to cut down any "significant" tree – defined as an 8-inch-diameter conifer, or a 12-inch-diameter deciduous tree. The diameter is

measured 54 inches above the ground.

Cutting trees of any size in critical areas or critical area buffers is generally prohibited, although some exceptions are made. A "hazard" tree, for example, may be cut down without a permit if it presents a "clear emergency" and poses an "imminent danger."

More information on "hazard" tree rules can be found online at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/3275.pdf](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/3275.pdf). Those with questions can also call City Hall at 425-295-0500.

"It would be a shame if the windstorm altered our traditional relationship with trees in this community," Curry said. "I think they're important to the environment, the esthetics of our city, and our sense of place."

**TOWN CENTER, cont. from pg. 1**

opment Kamuron Gurol. “The Town Center Committee volunteers, property owners, residents and staff have all put a lot of work into this and we’re seeing some major results.”

The Town Center planning area covers about 240 acres, most of it just north of City Hall in the geographical center of town. The City Council’s adopted vision for the proposed Town Center calls for, among other things:

- A central gathering place
- Bikeways and pedestrian trails
- Public and private open spaces
- A range of commercial, recreational, cultural, educational and personal services
- A variety of housing types
- Preservation of the natural setting
- Low-impact development techniques

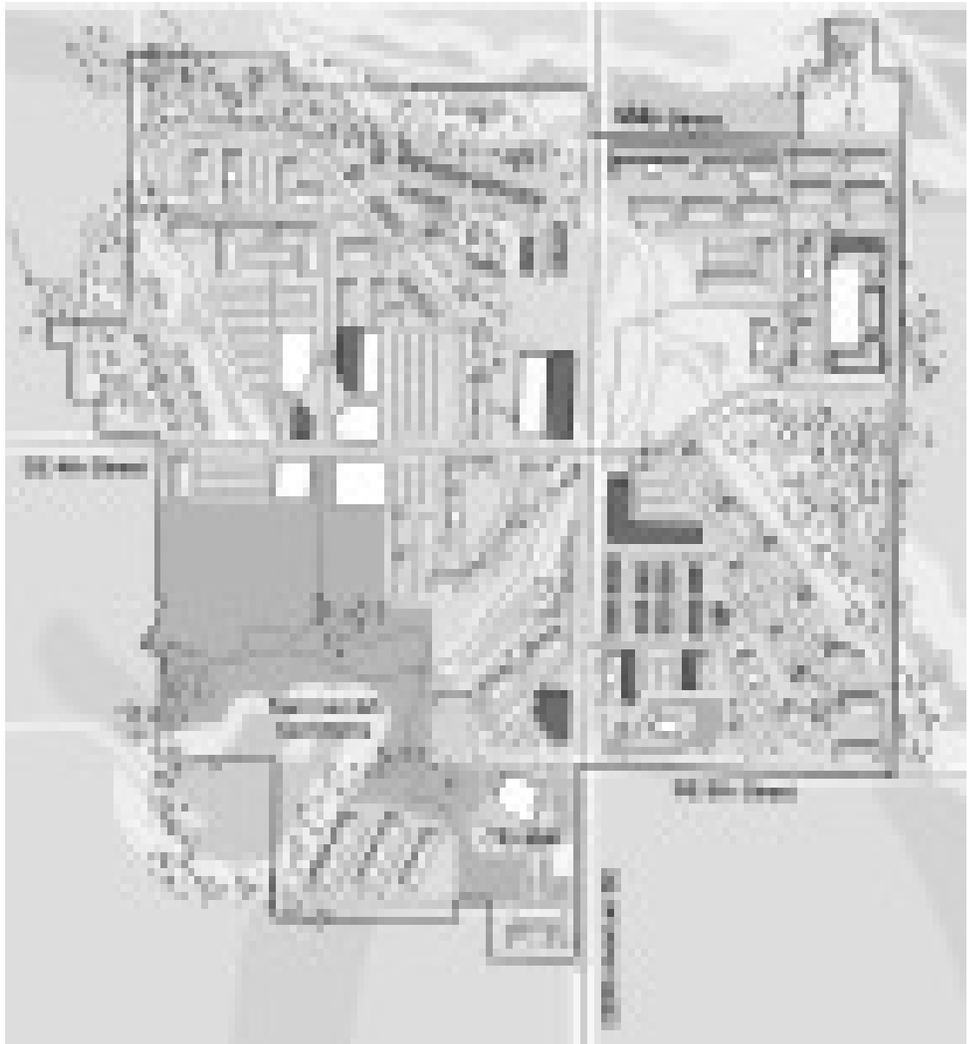
“The DEIS analyzed three alternatives, plus a no-action alternative,” Gurol said. “The preferred alternative crafted by the council will likely be a blend of the three alternatives.”

Like all the options, alternative #1 contains trails and open space, but features an emphasis on commercial and mixed-use development.

Alternative #2 features a small commercial village and much more modest overall development.

Alternative #3 features an emphasis on civic and cultural facilities along with some commercial and mixed-use elements.

The development of a preferred alternative in April will be informed by a mountainous amount of public input. It began in 2005 with the resident volunteers who made up the Special Study Area Task Force. The city has since held community forums, property-owner forums, and numerous Town Center Committee meetings. Residents have also been invited to



*Town Center alternative #3, an option that emphasizes civic buildings. In this graphic, the white blocks represent potential civic buildings, while the dark blocks represent potential commercial and retail spaces.*

weigh in via the city website and through questions in a newsletter survey.

That input will continue on Feb. 27 when the city hosts a public event that will let residents learn more, and express their preferences.

“We want this to be a well-informed and balanced decision,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The council is going to let environmental analysis, market analysis and community sentiment inform and guide this decision.”

More information about the Town Center is available on the city

website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/TownCenter.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/TownCenter.aspx). The DEIS is available for viewing on the website, and at City Hall and the Sammamish Library.

After the council chooses a preferred alternative, The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed in the fall. Council adoption of a Town Center plan is expected in spring 2008.

“We want people to keep giving us feedback,” Yazici said. “That’s how we’re going to make this Town Center the best possible fit for the community at large.”

## 2007: A busy construction year in the city

If they look left or right, drivers along 228th Avenue are going to see some big changes this summer. With several projects slated to start construction in the next month or two, the city's main arterial is going to sprout some new features:

- **Evergreen Christian Fellowship Church** - Phase 1 will construct a 31,000-square-foot, two-story building containing offices, educational rooms, a gymnasium/multi-purpose room, and a stage. Location: 120 228th Ave. N.E., just south of Eastlake High School.

- **Krishna Temple** - Construction will begin shortly on a 12,000-

square-foot, two-story building containing worship and dining facilities. Location: 1420 228th Ave. S.E., a bit south of Skyline High School.

- **228th Street Townhomes** - Phase 1 will construct five buildings, each containing three to four units. There will be a total of four phases, with 21 total buildings at completion. Location: 228th Avenue, just north of the Safeway shopping center.

- **Eastside Catholic High School** - Construction is already underway. Most of the campus is a few hundred yards to the east of 228th Avenue. Address: 232 228th Ave. S.E.

The rest of the community will also see new construction. One major project, **The Crossings at Pine Lake**, is well underway along 212th Avenue near Southeast 20th Street. This residential development features 160 lots.

Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur says it's been busy at City Hall, but process improvements have helped.

"Applicants now make appointments to submit their materials," McArthur said. "That lets us tell them up front what they need, and that translates into a quicker turnaround for our customers."



When the Sammi Awards are handed out March 17 at Eastlake High School, nine community-spirited residents will be honored for their contributions in nine categories.

The sixth annual Sammi Awards nominees are:

### Arts:

Shelly Brack, Dennis Helppie, Toni Osotio.

### Business:

Kathleen Collum of Paperee; Brett van Norman of Excel Chiropractic; Amber Roberts of Starbucks; John M. Rossi, DDS; Janna Williams of Ed-

ward Jones.

### Courage:

Lisa Files, Marin Morrison, Michelle Moulton, Tom and Sally O'Brien.

### Learning Promotion:

Bruce Kovalsky, Patrick Marckx, Mary O'Brien, James Rosenzweig.

### Trevor Price:

Katie Teman

### Teen Spirit:

Jessica Dover, Maggie Harlow, Sam Levenson, Kinsey Mannon, Christian McOمبر.

### Unsung Hero:

Paul Bruno, Kristin Heffley, Todd and Dee Hoeke, Elisa Houston, Lisa Jensen.

### Youth Advocate:

Barbara Coyner, Brendan Hyland, Leigh Stokes.

### Spirit of Sammamish:

Michelle Armour, Doneen Rae DeMeester, Kristin Pitt, Cindy van Wambeck, Dana Young.

For more information about the Sammi Awards celebration, both past and present, please go to [www.sammiawards.org](http://www.sammiawards.org).

## Eric LaFrance: city Employee of the Year

His title is “drainage engineer,” a vital position in the moist metropolis of Sammamish, but Eric LaFrance fills many roles.

He’s the head chef at staff picnics, a past chairman of the employee committee and, now, the city’s Employee of the Year for 2006.

“Eric’s interpersonal skills made him a terrific liaison between employees and management,” City Manager Ben Yazici. “His work with the employee committee has helped everyone.”

So has his cooking. In fact, he had to be pulled away from his food preparation duties at the employee appreciation lunch to accept his plaque.

“All of Eric’s colleagues value him as both a drainage engineer and an excellent cook,” Yazici said. “Which role they place the most importance on depends on whether they’re hungry or not.”



*Eric LaFrance, 2006 city employee of the year, shakes hands with City Manager Ben Yazici at the employee appreciation lunch.*

## Rentals soar at Beaver Lake Lodge

*Under city management, there were 269 bookings in 2006*

With a powerful demand for new roads and parks, the city, in its first few years, didn’t have much time to book weddings into Beaver Lake Lodge – so, it delegated the job to a private company.

In 2005, the private firm booked 33 events at the city-owned lodge. After hiring Joanna Puthoff as its facility coordinator, however, the city saw a huge change.

“In 2006, we booked 269 events,” Puthoff said. “There isn’t a lot of meeting space in Sammamish, so the demand is definitely there.”



Under the previous management, Beaver Lake Lodge was used almost exclusively for weddings. Puthoff, although she welcomes and books plenty of weddings, vastly expanded

the client list.

“Sports groups, business groups, family reunions – they’re keeping us busy,” Puthoff said.

In 2006, the lodge and the associated facilities brought in \$43,000 in revenue, almost tripling the previous year’s take.

Those interested in rates and other details can go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us))

and click on the “parks” tab on the left side of the home page.

They can also contact Puthoff directly at 425-295-0588 or [jputhoff@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jputhoff@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

## Project updates:

More information available online at:  
[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and  
[www.sammplat.wa.org](http://www.sammplat.wa.org)



**244th Avenue:** This project will improve 244th Avenue between Southeast Eighth Street and Northeast Eighth Street by creating a two-lane, tree-lined street with a median and/or center turn lane, as needed. The street will include a 630-foot-long bridge structure, closing an existing gap in the corridor. Design is 30 percent complete, with construction expected to begin in late summer or early fall 2007. The construction contract is estimated at just over \$13 million. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at 425-295-0563 or [jiireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jiireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Pine Lake Transit Access Road:**

This \$1.8 million project will provide a new, three-lane road connection between Southeast 30th Street and 228th Avenue. The road will feature one lane in each direction, a center turn lane or landscaped median, a porous sidewalk on the south side and a soft walking path on the north side. Currently about half-way through construction, the road should be complete by early 2007. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0561.

### **Northeast Eighth Street Walkway:**

This sidewalk project along the north side of Northeast Eighth Street will result in pedestrian improvements between 228th Avenue Northeast and Inglewood Jr. High School. This \$434,000 project is essentially com-

plete. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Intersection improvement at East Lake Sammamish Parkway and Louis Thompson Hill Road:**

With the goal of improving safety and traffic flow, this \$359,000 project will feature new signal lights and street lights. Completion of the project is scheduled for February 2007. Project manager Steven Chen can be reached at 425-295-0564, or via email at [schen@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:schen@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **228th Avenue Northeast Walkway:**

This \$2,040,000 project will create a sidewalk on the west side of 228th Avenue between Northeast 12th Place and Northeast 25th Way. Improvements to the east side of the roadway were recently completed. Currently, storm sewer pipe is being installed in the median. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **East Lake Sammamish Parkway:**

This project, stretching from Northeast Inglewood Hill Road to the northern city limits, isn't scheduled to begin construction until 2008. After environmental analysis is complete, the City Council is expected to choose a design alternative sometime in 2007. With the goal of reducing congestion and improving safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, this \$41 million project will have multiple stages.

Among other things, it will widen the roadway, add a median or left turn lane, provide bike lanes and build a sidewalk on the east side of the parkway. Project Manager Jeff Brauns can be reached at 425-295-0561 or [jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Beaver Lake Preserve Loop Trail:**

A 1.2 mile loop trail is the centerpiece of this \$265,000 project in the Beaver Lake Preserve. It will pass through a maturing second growth cedar forest and cross wetlands. The project will also build a 10-space crushed rock parking lot, information kiosk, and portable restroom enclosure. With construction already underway, the trail is expected to open this spring. Project manager Kevin Husemann can be reached at 425-295-0583 or [khusemann@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:khusemann@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

### **Watermain replacement (SE 32nd St. and 212th Ave. SE):**

This Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District (District) project is replacing an old cement watermain with a larger, ductile iron watermain to improve fire flows and reliability in the area southwest of Pine Lake. Completion is expected this spring. Project Manager Jim Konigsfeld can be reached at [jim@sammplat.wa.org](mailto:jim@sammplat.wa.org) or 425-392-6256, ext. 217.

### **Water and sewer extension (SE Pine Lake Road and 224th Place SE):**

In conjunction with the city's extension of Issaquah Pine Lake Road westward from the new park-and-ride, the District is extending water and sewer mains along the new road. This project is substantially complete. Project manager Kyle Wong can be reached at [kyle@sammplat.wa.org](mailto:kyle@sammplat.wa.org) or 425-392-6256, ext. 203.

# Bring your baby; get fit at Beaver Lake Park!

*Program for new moms now in its second year*



If your infant is at least six weeks old, it may be time for Baby Boot Camp, a city-sponsored fitness program that helps new moms get back in shape. The program, which started here last year, allows moms to keep their babies with them as they do both strength and cardiovascular exercises.

The classes, which are held at Beaver Lake Park, run Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m., and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. If bad weather makes exercising with a baby stroller difficult, Beaver Lake Lodge is right there to provide an alternative location.

For additional information, please call Stephanie Harris at 425-281-1635. You can also register for you first class free by going online at [www.babybootcamp.com](http://www.babybootcamp.com).

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

### February

**Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007**

Town Center DEIS Open House, 4-7:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007**

City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007**

Town Center Committee Mtg. 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007**

City Council Study Session, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007**

Town Center Committee Mtg, 4-6 p.m.  
City Hall

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Sammamish Library

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Monday, Feb. 19, 2007**

Presidents' Day  
City Hall Closed

**Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007**

City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007**

Arts Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m.  
City Hall

**Monday, Feb. 26, 2007**

Parks & Rec Commission Mtg  
6:30-9:30 p.m.  
City Hall

### March

**Thursday, Mar. 1, 2007**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2007**

City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Tuesday, Mar. 13, 2007**

City Council Study Session, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Thursday, Mar. 15, 2007**

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Hall

**Monday, Mar. 19, 2007**

City Council Joint Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Tuesday, Mar. 20, 2007**

City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.  
City Hall

**Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2007**

Arts Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m.  
City Hall

**Thursday, Mar. 22, 2007**

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Sammamish Library

**Monday, Mar. 26, 2007**

Parks and Rec Commission Mtg, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
City Hall

*NOTE: Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.*

## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Mark Cross  
Mayor



Lee Felling  
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry  
Councilmember



Don Gerend  
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember



Michele Petitti  
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember

## When your cell phone rings in the car, it's danger calling...

Sammamish Police Chief Brad Thompson says he's been at far too many accident scenes where the at-fault driver has sheepishly admitted being distracted by his cell phone conversation. Though honest, the admissions are of little consolation to the other drivers as they're loaded into the back of an ambulance. Chief Thompson has some suggestions:

- Turn the cell phone off before driving.
- If you absolutely must make a call, safely pull off the road first.
- Never text message while driving.

If you're unwilling to make those adjustments, Chief Thompson asks you to at least consider these options:

- Let a passenger answer the phone.
- Don't answer the phone until you've looked around and decided the traffic road conditions are safe enough to accept a call.
- Keep conversations short and factual. Emotional or thought-provoking calls are more distracting.
- Use the hands-free mode, or an earpiece attachment.

"There are over 500 traffic deaths in Washington every year," Chief Thompson said. "By using your cell phone intelligently, you can reduce the chances that you, or one of your loved ones, will end up as a statistic. Please drive safely."

### City of Sammamish Offices

801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075  
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)

#### Mark Cross, Mayor

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

#### Lee Felling, Deputy Mayor

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

#### Jack Barry, Councilmember

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

#### Don Gerend, Councilmember

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

#### Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember

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

#### Michele Petitti, Councilmember

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

#### Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

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

Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Ass't City Mgr
Kamuron Guroi	Community Dev Director
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Steve Hartwig	City Engineer
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



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