

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 88

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

## State to review shoreline regs

### SMP UPDATE HEADED TO DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

At press time, the City Council was scheduled to adopt the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update at its regular City Council meeting on Oct. 6.

Following adoption, the new SMP regulations will go to the state's Department of Ecology for review and approval. While it's not uncommon for the state to ask for revisions, City Manager Ben Yazici hopes the process is close to the finish line.

"The City Council has really listened carefully to all sides, and produced a nice, balanced SMP," Yazici said. "I hope the state will recognize that effort and give us quick approval."

The regulations, updated on the basis of the latest science, are intended, among other things, to preserve and improve water quality and salmon habitat in the city's lakes.

"Balancing environmental concerns and property rights is always a challenge," Yazici said. "We were fortunate to have the help of some very diligent shoreline homeowners in this effort."



*An artist's rendering of the proposed recreation center. A new gymnasium (far left) would be added to the existing library building at the intersection of 228th Ave. and Inglewood Hill*

## City makes an offer on old library

### CONVERSION TO RECREATION CENTER PLANNED

If things go according to plan, the city will partner with the Boys and Girls Club to convert the current library building into a recreation center for all age groups.

At press time, the city was waiting for the King County Library System to approve the city's offer of \$3.4 million for the building, which will be vacated when the new library next to City Hall opens early next year. The City Council

authorized City Manager Ben Yazici to make the purchase offer at its regular meeting on Sept. 1.

"The idea is for the Boys and Girls Club to provide their usual great services for middle schoolers and high schoolers," Yazici said, "but then let city programs fill in during school hours with programs for seniors and pre-schoolers."

*See REC CENTER, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**SARI EXHIBIT**

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**FOOD DRIVE**

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# Don't let the perfect stand in the way of the good!

There has been much discussion recently about the Council's decision to purchase the old library from the King County Library District and work with the Boys and Girls Club to transform it into a recreation center for the city of Sammamish.

Perhaps a little background would be helpful. The present library, at the corner of 228th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Eighth Street was built in the late 1990s, shortly before Sammamish incorporated. It is approximately 10,000 square feet and is inadequate for the needs of our community (we are told it is the most used free standing library, per square foot, in the entire Library District).

The city pressured the Library District for a larger library, and in 2004 a Library District bond issue passed that included funds to build a larger library in Sammamish. After efforts to squeeze in a community center on the Sammamish Commons site next to City Hall didn't materialize, we convinced the Library District to build the new library at the Commons site (instead of renovating and enlarging the current library).

The city was able to sell the Library District (for \$825,000) sufficient

land to make the new nearly 20,000-square-foot library with underground parking a reality at the Sammamish Commons. It is currently under construction with anticipated move-in next February.

The Library District tried to sell the old library several years ago, at the peak of the economic boom. The Boys and Girls Club tried to acquire it at a price of over \$4 million, but weren't able to consummate the transaction.

The city of Sammamish subsequently included the purchase of the library building as part of the Parks Bond measure last November. Although 57 percent of the voters approved the measure, it fell just short of the 60 percent needed for passage.

Meanwhile, the bids on several capital projects in Sammamish came in much below engineers' estimates because the recession had created a much more competitive bidding atmosphere. Thanks to that, the city now has the ability to purchase the library using some of the savings from the other projects.

The timing is right and the price is right. With new appraisals dropping below \$4 million, and after very positive negotiations with the Library District, we have agreed upon a purchase price of approximately \$3.4 million.

We are now negotiating with the Boys and Girls Club on terms that would allow the building to be used as a teen center after school lets out, and as a general recreation center for seniors, families, and very young children before school lets out. The Boys and Girls Club would pay for transition expenses, aim for a 2010 opening, and embark on a fund raising effort next year to expand the space to include a gymnasium and other facilities.

As is the case with most issues, there are pros and cons to this approach. First of all, the ingress and egress to the library has always been a problem. Also, doing this program right now might slow down efforts to develop a more complete community center, possibly with aquatic facilities and even indoor soccer.

On the other hand, the Council's decision to buy the old library building now allows us to move forward almost immediately. Who knows how many years it would take to fund and build the full-service community center that many people envision as part of the still-to-be-built Town Center? Another plus – the price is right, and the proceeds will help the Library District defray the cost of our new library.

Although the current proposal is not absolutely ideal in some ways, I reminded myself of a wise old saying as I comfortably cast my yes vote: "Don't let the perfect stand in the way of the good!"



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

## Big change at bottom of Inglewood Hill Road

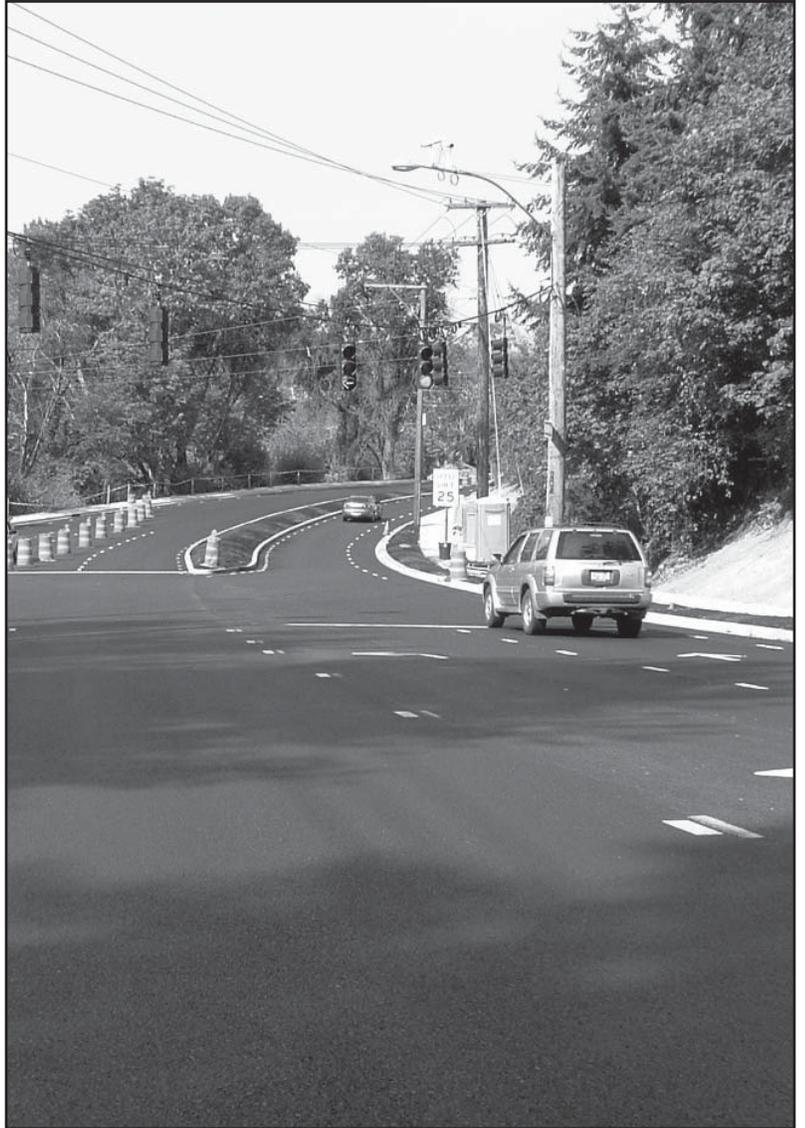
Although the new intersection at the bottom of Inglewood Hill Road appears to be substantially complete, some remaining work items will continue to affect traffic through much of October.

Once the newly configured intersection is fully functional, drivers turning north onto East Lake Sammamish Parkway will no longer have to take a right turn at the bottom of Inglewood Hill Road, and southbound drivers on the parkway will no longer have to take a left turn to climb up Inglewood Hill Road.

“The drivers making those turns made up most of the traffic flow, especially during the morning and evening rush hour,” Public Works Director John Cunningham said. “This new design eliminates the turns for that main flow of traffic.”

The elimination of the left turn up Inglewood Hill Road should have great safety benefits. Historically, many of the accidents at the intersection have involved vehicles making that turn.

**244th Update:** Contractors are hard at work placing bridge support columns in a wetland just west of Allen Lake. The city has notified neighbors that construction noise will be present through most of November. The 800-foot bridge across the wetland is part of a mile-long project that will link unconnected segments of 244th Avenue between Southeast Eighth Street and Northeast Eighth Street.



*As cars hit the bottom of Inglewood Hill Road, they now flow directly onto the East Lake Sammamish Parkway (northbound) without having to take a right turn at the intersection.*

### *REC CENTER, cont. from pg. 1*

Per the tentative agreement, the Boys and Girls Club would reconfigure the existing building, add a full size gymnasium at the west end of the property, and provide basic staff throughout the day.

In addition to fitness, sports, cultural arts, music and other standard programs, the rec center will likely feature a computer lab and a recording studio.

According to Sammamish Parks

and Rec Director Jessi Richardson, the city will reach out to the community to find out what other features and programs residents would like to see at the rec center.

“We want to make sure we’re not replicating activities we already have available in Sammamish,” Richardson said. “That’s going to require some public meetings and maybe a community survey. We’re also going to make every effort to involve youth and teens in the public process.”

If no serious obstacles emerge, it’s possible the rec center could open on a limited basis with a “soft” launch as early as September 2010. A completely finished building operating at full capacity, though, probably won’t be feasible until sometime in 2011.

“Using an existing building and partnering with the Boys and Girls Club to provide programs is really going to jump start this effort,” Yazici said. “It would take a lot longer if we were starting all of this from scratch.”

## Indian Sari exhibit graces City Hall



*Three of the traditional Sari costumes on display at City Hall through Dec. 4.*

The City Hall entryway and lobby area has been dubbed the “Commons Gallery” by the Sammamish Arts Commission, and this fall it is adorned with brightly colored cloth and photographs from India.

The “Sari” exhibit, which showcases the traditional costumes of Indian women, also features three mannequins wrapped gracefully in the vibrant hues of the Sari cloth.

Most of the photographs in the exhibit are on the upper level of the City Hall gallery. They show how the colorful fabric is made and various other scenes from India.

Also on display, tucked beneath the stairs, is an intricate form of sand painting called Rangoli.

The exhibit, titled “The Art of the Sari,” will be on display at City Hall through Dec. 4. Residents can enjoy the display during normal business hours.

## Sammamish Art Fair

THIRD ANNUAL EVENT AT CITY HALL

If you would like to view and/or buy great art from local eastside artists, you’re invited to this month’s Sammamish Art Fair at City Hall. Staged by the Sammamish Arts Commission, the fair will run Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year’s art submissions, which were juried to ensure the highest quality, include original paintings, glass art, ceramics, jewelry, mixed media and encaustic art.

For more information on the art fair, go to <http://sammamishartfair.wordpress.com/> or contact the Sammamish Arts Commission at 425-295-0500.

Admission to the art fair is free. Parking is available next to City Hall. The event will offer light refreshments and music along with the art.

## Sound Transit adds more Sammamish/Seattle runs

Two more early morning buses from Sammamish to Seattle and four additional evening buses from Seattle to Sammamish have been added to Sound Transit’s Route 554 during the week.

The two new Seattle-bound buses will leave the South Sammamish Park & Ride at 4:47 a.m. and 5:25 a.m. The four additional Seattle-to-Sammamish buses will arrive at the South Sammamish Park & Ride at 7:31 p.m., 8:34 p.m., 9:01 p.m., and 11:29 p.m. There is also an existing trip arriving in Sammamish at 12:29 a.m.

Other stops in the area for the buses include the intersection of Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and Issaquah-Fall City Road, 228th Ave. at S.E. Eighth St., 228th Ave. at N.E. Eighth St., 228th Ave. at N.E. 25th St., and N.E. Redmond Way at 185th Ave. N.E.

For more information on stop times for Route 554, go to [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org), click on “schedules and route maps,” and then click on Route 554.

## Sammamish joins other eastside cities in food drive

In accordance with proclamations from mayors and city councils, the four-week period from Sept. 26 to Oct. 24 has been designated the "Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry."

The Sammamish City Council issued its proclamation on Sept. 15 and encouraged all residents to pitch in by donating canned goods and other non-perishable food items to the drop-off locations listed below:

- Fire Station 81 – 2030 212th Ave. S.E.
- Fire Station 82 – 1851 228th Ave. N.E.
- Fire Station 83 – 3425 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road S.E.
- City Hall – 801 228th Ave. S.E.
- Sammamish Library – 825 228th Ave. N.E.
- Pleateau Chiropractic – 22647 Inglewood Hill Road

For your convenience, you may clip off the brochure to the right and use it for reference when you go to the grocery store or look through your pantry. For more information, contact Melonie Anderson, Sammamish City Clerk, at 425-295-0511 or [manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

## Sammamish walks Soaring Eagle Park

Residents are invited to enjoy a 2.5 mile walk through Soaring Eagle Park on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The walk through 600 acres of densely wooded open space will be led by Sammamish Parks Commissioner Randy Jackson.

Among other things, participants should bring birding and wildlife guidebooks, cameras and binoculars. But please leave the dogs at home so the focus can be on plants and wildlife.

The walk will begin and end at the Soaring Eagle Park trailhead. **Directions:** From 228th Avenue, turn east on Southeast Eighth Street (across from City Hall). Go 1.5 miles (S.E. Eighth turns into 244th Ave. along the way) and then turn right on E. Main Drive. Go 1.2 miles after the turn until you arrive at the trailhead parking lot.

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**EASTSIDE'S MONTH OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY**

**SHARE WHAT YOU CAN**

September 26 - October 24, 2009

Join your neighbors and friends to help fill our local foodbank shelves, and feed your neighbors in need.

**ITEMS MOST NEEDED**

- Peanut butter (18oz plastic jars)
- Canned corn, peas, green beans, diced tomatoes
- Canned peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail
- Canned pineapple & tomato juice (48oz)
- Canned beef stew (24oz)
- Canned pork & beans
- Canned lunch meat (SPAM)
- Canned tuna
- Canned soup
- Canned chili
- 1 qt envelopes powdered milk
- Vegetable oil (24oz)
- Snack pudding
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Jars of baby food (1st & 2nd foods only, please)

**Log on to find locations:**  
[www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive/](http://www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive/)

Donation sites located throughout East King County.

Logos for participating organizations: hopelink, City of Sammamish, Emergency Feeding Program, ARAS, Issaquah, and others.

## City's email alert system to launch later this year

### ALERTS ON A LONG MENU OF TOPICS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

Do you want to receive email alerts from the city on topics of special interest to you? Before the year is out, Sammamish expects to provide that service to all residents through the city website.

Once implemented, here's how it will work. You will simply go to the city website, click on an "email alert" icon, and then sign up for email alerts on whatever menu items you find interesting. City Council agendas, construction updates, Town Center news, parks and rec programs – these are just a few of the subject areas that will be available to you. If, after a time, you decide you want to add more topics, or delete a few, you'll be able to handle that with a click of the mouse.

Many of the emails you receive will be triggered when a topic on the website is updated. Those emails will simply contain a link back to the new material on the website. Other emails will be stand-alone emails that contain a complete message. In the case of emergency or traffic information, the system will also allow you to receive text messages on your cell phone if you wish.

The service is provided by GovDelivery, a company out of St. Paul, Minnesota. Specializing in communication between government entities and citizens, GovDelivery has clients from coast to coast, including Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Washington State Department of

Transportation, and nearby cities like Bellevue and Kirkland.

"We think this is going to be an excellent tool for us going forward," said city Communications Manager Tim Larson. "It will make it really simple for people to get updates on the topics they care about."

The city is currently in the process of hiring a webmaster. The exact implementation date for the email alert system will depend on how soon the new webmaster begins work. The new system will be heavily publicized as that launch date approaches. For more information, contact Tim Larson at 425-295-0555 or [tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

## Sustainable September event at Farmers Market



*Wayne Drop, a water conservation mascot, poses at the Sustainable September event with (from left) Senior Planner Mona Davis, Parks Commissioner Judy Petersen, Wetland Biologist Kathy Curry, Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders, Steffanie Ong (Integrated Solutions), and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deb Sogge.*

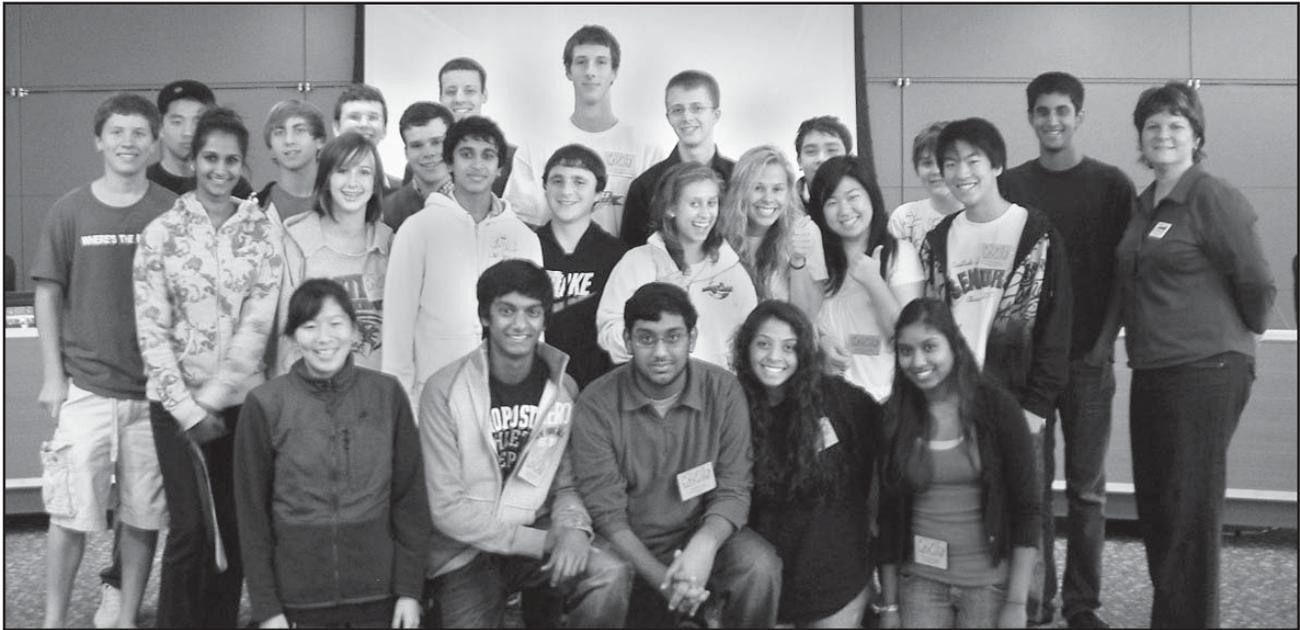
With fresh fruit and healthy produce overflowing next to City Hall, the Farmers Market seemed like an appropriate place to stage the "Sustainable September" event on Sept. 2.

The event, co-sponsored by the city and the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, featured businesses sharing their expertise on saving energy and water, connecting with nature, remodeling homes, and much more.

"The Farmers Market, with all that healthy, locally grown food, provided a very nice backdrop for people who wanted to learn about sustainability," the city's Dawn Sanders said. "It's a theme we hope to revisit at future markets and other city events."

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Sammamish Youth Board for 2009/2010



Recreation Coordinator Lynne Handlos (far right) gathers in the City Council Chamber with new and returning members of the Sammamish Youth Board. The students, among other things, will help with Teenfest, the city's Holiday Tree lighting ceremony, and the community's Nightmare at Beaver Lake haunted house event.

## CITY CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

**Thursday, Oct. 1**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 6**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 8**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 10 - Sunday, Oct. 11**

Art Fair, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 13**

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

**Wednesday, Oct. 14**

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

**Thursday, Oct. 15**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Monday, Oct. 19**

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21**

Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 30**

Trick or Treat at City Hall, 3-5 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 5**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 10**

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

**Wednesday, Nov. 11**

Veterans Day.

City offices closed

**Monday, Nov. 16**

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, Nov. 17**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 18**

Sammamish Youth Board, 6 p.m.

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

**Thursday, Nov. 19**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 26 - Friday, Nov. 27**

Thanksgiving, City offices closed

### 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



*Jack Barry*  
Deputy Mayor



*Mark Cross*  
Councilmember



*Lee Felling*  
Councilmember



*Kathleen Huckabay*  
Councilmember



*Michele Petitti*  
Councilmember



*Nancy Whitten*  
Councilmember

# Commission Openings

## Planning Commission

This is an advisory group to the City Council on issues relating to land use ordinances and regulations. All the open positions will begin Jan. 1, 2010, and will be for either a three- or four-year commitment. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

## Arts Commission

The city is also seeking candidates to fill open positions on the Sammamish Arts Commission. This group meets once a month on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

**To apply:** Please submit a letter of interest, a resume outlining your relevant background and experience, and a completed questionnaire to: City Clerk, City of Sammamish, 801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075-9509. The deadline for submitting applications is Oct. 30, 2009. For more information or to download the questionnaire, visit the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

## 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
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