

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 112

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

Arts Fair !

5TH ANNUAL EVENT
RUNS OCT. 8, 9

ARTS COMMISSION ALSO
BRINGS JET CITY IMPROV
TO TOWN THIS MONTH

The community's biggest annual gathering of artists and art aficionados will have City Hall bursting at the seams this month when the Sammamish Arts Commission helps stage the city's fifth annual arts fair on Oct. 8 and 9.

The free, two-day weekend fair, featuring some of the best jury-selected Eastside artists, will offer paintings, jewelry, mixed media, encaustic art, ceramics, woodcarving, photography, textiles and glass art.

Residents are encouraged to come visit with the artists, look at their work, and, if so disposed, buy a piece of art.

"Our Arts Commission has done a great job facilitating this fair over the past five years" City Manager Ben Yazici said. "The reputation of this event has grown each and every year."

The fair is sponsored by the city,

See ARTS FAIR, pg. 6



Walking along a new pathway in the Evans Creek Preserve.

Evans Creek Preserve Opens Oct. 22

VOLUNTEER TRAIL-BUILDING EFFORT REALLY PAYS OFF

Thanks to the biggest volunteer effort in city history, the 180 acres of Evans Creek Preserve will open to the public on Saturday, Oct. 22. Following a 10 a.m. ribbon cutting, residents will be free to wander through the woodlands, meadows and gently rolling hills that give this wilderness park its special character.

"We had over fifty volunteer work

parties come in and help build our new trail system here," Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. "We're very grateful. They gave us approximately 6,000 volunteer hours in total.

"The Washington Trails Association volunteers got us jump started in March, and then volunteers organized

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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CITY HEROES

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COMMISSION OPENINGS

Story on page 4

Advocating for cities

Sammamish, like all 281 towns and cities in Washington State, is a member of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). This member-driven organization provides education programs



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

for electeds and city staff, services such as insurance programs, and advocacy for the interests of cities at the state and federal levels.

The advocacy (all right, call it lobbying) is done via

a team of full-time AWC staff analysts and lobbyists, with policy direction provided by the cities. The cities' input flows through a series of subcommittees. Deputy Mayor Tom Odell serves on the Economic Development & Quality Infrastructure Subcommittee, and I serve on the Flexible General Government Operations Subcommittee.

The policy guidance of these and about a half dozen other subcommittees is brought forward to the overall AWC Legislative Committee. After appropriate review, that committee then passes a list of priorities up to the AWC Board for consideration.

The goal is to provide guidance for our advocates so they can lobby vigorously during the 2012 state legislative session – endorsing, opposing, and monitoring legislative bills that affect cities.

During these tough financial times, it doesn't make sense to focus on getting a lot of financial help for the cities. With the state legislature faced with yet another dismal economic forecast and needing to find ways to squeeze

another \$1.5 to \$2 billion of reductions out of the next biennial budget, our lobbyists will be looking to protect existing funding sources for cities while asking for more flexibility at the local level.

Here's an example. The state's Public Works Trust Fund, a revolving lending source for cities, is potentially on the chopping block. Shortly after our 1999 incorporation, Sammamish borrowed \$10 million from the board at a miniscule 0.5% interest rate to help pay for improvements to 228th Avenue.

We have been paying back principal and interest at some \$500,000 per year, and the trust fund then loans that out to other cities. Two years ago, though, the legislature swept all of the money out of the fund to help balance the state budget, and they might be tempted to do it again this time around. We will be strongly opposing this action.

We will be asking the legislature for more tools for our toolbox for handling local needs. For example, there are creative financing strategies which could be helpful for cities in trying to maintain infrastructure and promote economic development. One such tool is tax increment financing which basically is a way of using anticipated enhanced future tax revenues as a source of repayment for bonds used to develop infrastructure that encourage more current development.

There are also areas in city government that take a lot of time and expense that could possibly be made more efficient with help from the legislature. Reducing abuse with regards to public records requests while making the system work better for both the re-

questers and the providers is an example. Streamlining the permit or review process would help cities in meeting requirements of the state Environmental Protection Act and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

There are areas where confusion exists between state law and federal mandates. Recently the issue of medical marijuana found state law in conflict with federal law. Cities including Sammamish have passed temporary moratoria on collective gardens until, hopefully, the legislature and/or the federal government provide some clarification.

In another example, the federal requirements related to environmental impact of construction projects such as roads are not the same as the state requirements. In order to use federal grant funding on local projects, the federal regulations must be followed, even if the environmental requirements under state law are more restrictive.

The AWC lobbyists will probably be instructed to continue pursuing options for creating sustainable personnel related costs. And, cities will continue to oppose efforts to require that all municipal court judges, regardless of the number of hours they work, be elected.

The Association of Washington Cities is also working closely with the Washington State Association of Counties on issues of common concern. In addition, the AWC Federal Legislative Committee works on federal actions that affect our cities, and provides information to our congressional delegation on potential impacts to Washington cities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend".

City's award-winning finances in good hands

Before he became deputy city manager last month, a highly decorated Lyman Howard spent 10 years as the city's finance director. That means he's in a great position to help the new financial team – Joe Guinasso and Chris Gianini – continue the city's award-winning ways.

"Joe, our new finance director, came to us from the city of Bellevue," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Chris, our new deputy finance director, was previously our accounting manager. With Lyman nearby, we're expecting a seamless transition and continued excellence."

Thanks to low debt, conservative fiscal policies and award-winning execution, the city currently enjoys an AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's and received its fifth "Distinguished Budget Award" from the the Government



Lyman Howard, Joe Guinasso and Chris Gianini.

Finance Officers Association on Oct. 4.

"Our City Council has always insisted on prudent financial policy," Yazici said. "As a staff, from the city manager on down, it's always been our top priority. We're going to continue that great tradition with Joe and Chris."

EVANS CREEK, cont. from pg. 1

by the city took over. We had terrific work parties from Starbucks, Symetra, Siemens, the Church of Latter Day Saints and a lot of community groups and individuals. It was great to see."

The preserve, attached to the northern city limits, is accessible from State Route 202. For the grand opening, residents will park at Louisa May Alcott Elementary and ride a

shuttle to the preserve. Thereafter, residents should use the regular parking lot by going to the intersection of State Route 202 and 224th Avenue Northeast and then heading south about 500 feet on 224th.

For more information on Evans Creek Preserve and the grand opening details, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click through **Departments, Parks and Rec, Projects, and Evans Creek Preserve.**



Volunteers of all ages took part in more than 50 work parties and contributed 6,000 hours of work to Evans Creek Preserve.

“Heroes of the City” honored by City Council

GREG BARTON AND HAL GOREN SAVED A NEIGHBOR DURING HOUSE FIRE

When Sahalee residents gathered around a burning home on Aug. 24, there was no time to wait for firefighters. So Greg Barton and Hal Goren searched for a way into the house. After finding a sliding glass door on the side of the home, Barton crawled into the smoke-filled house, located an elderly resident who had collapsed on the floor, and carried him to safety. Goren, Barton and other neighbors tended to the victim until medical help arrived.

For their exceptional displays of courage, Barton and Goren were both honored at the Sept. 19 City Council meeting, receiving “Hero of the City” plaques from Mayor Don Gerend and Deputy Mayor Tom Odell.

“This was a special moment for all of us,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It was an honor to be in the same room with people who saved a life by disregarding any concerns for their own safety.”

For their part, Barton and Goren downplayed the hero talk, noting that they reacted the way any resident would have.

“The firefighters tell us the gentleman in the house would not have survived without their quick action,” Yazici said. “It says good things about our community that residents look after each other. They may not have intended to set an inspirational example for the rest of us, but that’s exactly what they did.”



From left, Eastside Fire and Rescue Chief Lee Soptich, Eastside Fire and Rescue Board Chairman Ron Pedee, resident Hal Goren, Mayor Don Gerend, resident Greg Barton, and Deputy Mayor Tom Odell.

City seeking applicants for boards and commissions

If you would like to serve on the Parks and Rec, Planning, or Arts Commissions, you should have your application in no later than Nov. 30. The Beaver Lake Management Board is also asking for applicants. To obtain an application questionnaire or additional information, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Please submit your questionnaire, along with a resume and letter of interest, to: City Clerk Melonie Anderson, City of Sammamish, 801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075-9509. You may also send the application via email to: manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

If selected to serve by the City Council, you will begin your duties on Feb. 1. Most of the positions have four-year terms. If the city website does not answer all of your questions, feel free to contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson directly at 425-295-0511.

Correction!

Wildlife Habitat

In last month’s newsletter, an incorrect website address was printed in the “wildlife habitat” story. The correct website address for the Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project is:

<http://sammamishwildlifehabitatproject.blogspot.com/>

Who you gonna call when you see storm drain trouble?

Most people know you're not supposed to pour paint, oil or soapy water down a storm drain, but what do you do when you see it happen? Simple – you just call 425-295-0500 and get the city's Stormwater Management Team on the case!

"If we want to keep our streams and lakes clean, we have to follow the rules," Stormwater Engineer Eric LaFrance said. "Dumping that kind of pollution into our storm drains is illegal and really bad for the environment."

To track spills, educate residents and assess progress, the city has an "Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program." Anything that goes down a storm drain other than stormwater is an "illicit discharge."

"We urge residents to call 425-295-0500, or 206-296-8100 after business hours, if they see a spill or some intentional dumping," LaFrance said. "We can't put a stop to it or take the proper measures if we don't hear from the community."

Test your traffic IQ

True or false: If I'm driving on a four-lane roadway like 228th Avenue, I don't have to stop if I meet a school bus with flashing red lights that is stopped and pointed in the opposite direction.

Answer: True. You don't have to stop if the road has at least three marked lanes and/or a raised median strip.



Source: RCW 46.61.370



Sammamish Boys & Girls Club set to open by Nov. 1

The city's very own Boys & Girls Club is getting close. Although a specific date was not available at press time, the latest addition to the city's array of recreational opportunities was expected to open at the end of this month.

Billed as the "Sammamish EX3 Teen & Recreation Center," the new facility will serve residents of all ages, including seniors, when it opens in the old library building at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road.

"It's very exciting to see our recreational infrastructure grow," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This center will really help with after-school activities for

teens, and provide opportunities for seniors and other residents when the kids are in school. It's going to be busy."

The center sprung out of a partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Club, with the city providing the building and the club

providing the renovation and programming. When the club raises additional money, a 7000-square-foot gymnasium will also be added to the facility.

For more information on the new center, or to inquire about donating, go to www.rs.positiveplace.org/teencenter.html or contact Jeremy Peck at jpeck@positiveplace.org or 425-250-4786.



Residents visit Boys and Girls Club open house on Sept. 22.

ARTS fAIR, cont. from pg. 1

the Sammamish Arts Commission, and King County's "4Culture" program. For examples of the art, and event details, please see the graphic below.

More art, especially the performing kind kids enjoy, will be found at the library, just across the City Hall plaza. Among other things, families will be able to enjoy theater, crafts, readings, quilting and lots of music!

Don't forget also that the Arts Commission is bringing Jet City Improv and other art and entertainment opportunities in the coming weeks. For the details, please look at the remainder of this page.



5th annual
Sammamish Art Fair
Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE

OCTOBER 8th - 9th 2011
SAT and SUN 10am - 5pm

fine arts - performance arts - arts activities
admission FREE



www.sammamishartfair.wordpress.com

Jet City Improv!



First class comedy is coming your way on Thursday, Oct. 27, 7-8 p.m., at City Hall, courtesy of "Jet City Improv," an improvisational group that creates scenes and games based on suggestions from the audience. This is entertainment suitable for the whole family, and best of all, it's free!

Istanbul's Grand Bazaar

Sammmamish City Hall will be transformed into a grand bazaar with live performances, food, exhibits and much more from Turkish culture!

Free and open to the public
Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sammmamish City Hall
801 228th Ave. S.E.

Sponsored by the Sammmamish Arts Commission, the city of Sammmamish, and King County's 4Culture.

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 4

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Planning Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8

Volunteer Event at Pine Lake Park
9 a.m.- noon

5th Annual Sammamish Art Fair
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 9

5th Annual Sammamish Art Fair
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

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

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting
6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 13

Community Garden Steering
Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 15

Sammamish Recycling
Collection Event
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunny Hills Elementary School

Volunteer Event at Jacob's Creek
9 a.m. - noon

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m. - noon

Hazel Wolf Wetlands

Monday, Oct. 17

Finance Committee Meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m.

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

City Council Office Hour, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 20

Planning Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22

Volunteer Event at Illahee Trail
9 a.m. - noon

NE 8th and SE 35th PL NE

Thursday, Oct. 27

Jet City Improv, 7-9 p.m.
City Hall

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 1

City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Parks and Rec Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3

Planning Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5

Istanbul's Grand Bazaar
Turkish Cultural Event
11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

City Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 8

City Council Study Session
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10

Community Garden Steering
Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 11

Veterans' Day
City offices closed

Monday, Nov. 14

Joint City Council/Planning
Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

City Council Office Hour
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting
6-7 p.m.

Gardening With Native Plants
7-8:30 p.m.

Sammamish Library

Saturday, Nov. 19

Volunteer Event: Lower Commons Park
1-3 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 21

Finance Committee Meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Holiday
City offices closed

Wednesday, Nov. 30

City Holiday Lighting Ceremony
5:30-6:30 p.m.

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, WA 98075

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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*

Homecoming Parade!



The ninth annual Skyline High School homecoming parade will march up 228th Avenue on Friday, Oct. 14, beginning at Discovery Elementary and heading north to the high school. As usual, the northbound lane of 228th Avenue will be closed to traffic between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. The southbound lane will be split in two, allowing two-way traffic to continue. Also as usual, access from driveways and roads on the east side of 228th Avenue will be limited between Southeast 24th Street and Southeast Eighth Street. Show up early for a good seat! The bands and floats will hit the road at 5 p.m. sharp!

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

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- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Ben Yazici | City Manager |
| Lyman Howard | Deputy City Manager |
| Kamuron Gurol | ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr |
| Joseph Guinasso | Finance Director |
| Laura Philpot | Public Works Director |
| Jessi Richardson | Parks & Rec Director |
| Mike Sauerwein | Admin Services Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk |
| Nathan Elledge | Police Chief |
| Lee Soptich | Fire Chief |
| Bruce Disend | City Attorney |

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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