



Upbeat response to community survey

Sammamish residents are decidedly positive about the direction of the new city, according to an extensive telephone poll conducted in May.

The random survey, which polled more than 400 residents in all quadrants of the city, detected strong feelings that Sammamish is on the right track and becoming a better place to live.

“This is gratifying news,” said Communications Manager Tim Larson. “This tells us that the wheels are rolling in the right direction and picking up speed.”

The survey, conducted by Dr. Gary Peterson of Sound Communication, gave residents the chance to agree, dis-

agree or state no opinion on 16 statements.

Some examples:

“Since incorporation, the city has become a better place to live.”

Among those who stated an opinion:

- 79.7 % agreed or strongly agreed
 - 20.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- (154 out of 400 respondents stated no opinion.)

“The overall direction of the city is on the right track.”

Among those who stated an opinion:

- 75.6% agreed or strongly agreed
- 24.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

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City extends evaluation of 244th corridor

After reviewing public comment on the Draft East Sammamish/244th Corridor Study, the city has decided to divide its evaluation of the corridor into two sections.

The final corridor study report on the southern segment, from Southeast Eighth Street to Southeast 32nd Street, has now been re-scheduled for release in March 2004.

“The vast majority of the community’s concerns have focused on this southern segment,” City Engineer Delora Kerber said. “This allows us to give extended consideration to the

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This shot of the Cascades, submitted by Trish Ropell, took first prize in the city photo contest. Three winners were announced at the June 3 Council meeting. See page 6 for the story.



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Mayor Ken Kilroy

Although the transformation of a neglected plateau into a well-designed city is going to take some time, I believe the summer of 2003 will be remembered as a pivotal moment in Sammamish history.

This is a season when the hard work and vision of plateau residents, the key ingredient in our community's progress since incorporation in 1999, will begin to pay off

in highly visible and satisfying ways.

Our main arterial, 228th Avenue, is now in its final phase of improvements. What was once a narrow, unsafe county road is about to become our city's signature boulevard – a five-lane corridor with turn lanes, median strips, sidewalks and all the other features of a high-functioning community pathway.

And parks, the other primary infrastructure deficit left over from county rule, will also take a huge step forward.

In addition to major improvements at Pine Lake Park, the city will also break ground at Ebright Creek Park, our first, brand-new park since incorporation. The 12-acre community-gathering place along 212th Avenue will feature a mixture of passive and active recreation uses.

A combination baseball and soccer field for our youngsters is an especially exciting element at Ebright Creek Park. Community surveys show powerful, city-wide support for new, youth-oriented athletic fields.

During the past two years, Sammamish has invested more than \$20 million to improve its transportation system and purchased 217 acres for future park development. Over the course of 2003 and 2004, the city will invest a total of \$40 million in capital projects. Obviously, the tax dollars the county used to spend elsewhere are now being invested here at home. Self-governance is transforming our town!

As important as 2003 will be to the evolution of our community, 2004 will bring us even more positive change. Late next year, Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre civic and park complex in the heart of the city, will truly bring our community together.

In addition to a new City Hall and police station building, Sammamish Commons will offer an amphitheater, public plaza, park facilities, trails, picnic areas – and a terrific view of the Seattle skyline against the Olympic Mountains.

Most importantly, Sammamish Commons will provide a focal point for our new city, a central gathering place where

families can meet, play and make memories that will last a lifetime.

A just-completed community survey indicates that you, the residents of Sammamish, believe our city is headed in the right direction. I couldn't agree more.

And from my vantage point as mayor, neighbor and fellow resident, I believe the best is yet to come.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

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- Ray Gilmore.....Community Development Director
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- Jeff Watling.....Parks & Recreation Manager
- Tim Larson.....Communications Manager
- Bruce Disend.....City Attorney
- Melonie Anderson.....City Clerk
- Richard Baranzini.....Police Chief
- John Murphy.....Fire Chief

* Assistant City Manager



Q & A

with Parks & Recreation Manager Jeff Watling

Q: The Sammamish Plateau developed before it became a city, before anybody thought to build in a system of parks. Is it tough to retrofit a city with a park system?

A: It's a challenge, but we're excited by the progress we've seen. After purchasing a good deal of land in prior years, we're now moving into development. Pine Lake Park will be improved this year, Sammamish Commons will break ground before long, and we hope to have at least the first phase of Ebright Creek Park finished and open to the public by the end of the year.

Q: Tell us about the difficulties of retrofitting a city with a park system.

A: Finding land in the midst of established developments is tough.

Understandably, established residents are sometimes reluctant to see a new project go in near their homes.

And most of the buildable land has already been taken. There is very little potential park space left that doesn't bring environmental issues into play.

We're going to follow the rules and be meticulous with the environment, but any and all park proposals will tend to trigger feelings that there must be a better alternative.

Q: Is that what's going on at Ebright Creek Park.

A: We think that's part of it. We're following all the rules and plan to put in a much-needed neighborhood park along 212th Avenue.

But some neighbors and other residents have protested one of the park ele-

ments, saying the sports field there will bring too much noise and traffic.

They've also expressed their interest in finding an alternative location, ideally a place where the city could develop a cluster of sports fields.

Section 36, a King County property just outside our eastern city limits, is a long-term possibility for that. But, at best, that's a few years away.

In the meantime, we're going to do our best to identify and develop shorter-term projects that suit the community.

Q: Are these objections going to be a repeating pattern as the city builds new parks over the years to come?

A: It very well could be. But we hope the reaction will soften over time, as the community begins to understand that it's tough to design and build parks that meet the diverse interests and values of our residents.

Q: You conduct a lot of open houses and public meetings on park projects. Have they been a success?

A: Definitely. The public input we received on the Pine Lake Park improvements, for example, helped create a balanced design most people appear to be very happy with. We also took in loads of community input recently at a very well attended Sammamish Commons open house.

Q: How much weight does the city give to public input?

A: A lot. It's a vital part of the equation and a point of emphasis for the City Council. We need to know, in a broad sense, what residents want in their community. And on specific projects, we want to know what alternative designs make the most sense to people.

The one thing we would remind people of, though, is that their input at public meetings is not the only factor we're obligated to weigh. This is a community full of busy families with lots of kids. Many can't make it to meetings.

Q: So what other sources of feedback do you rely on?

A: Community surveys are a great way to find out how the broader community feels. All of our surveys show that people in Sammamish are hungry for more park and recreational opportunities.

We also rely heavily on our volunteer Parks Commissioners, who mix everyday with other residents and have a good feel for community sentiment.

And, ultimately, of course, we look to the City Council for direction. They are the community's elected representatives. In that role, they're asked to make the tough decisions.

Q: How long will it be before we have enough parks and ball fields and other recreational opportunities in Sammamish?

A: Boy, that's tough to answer. Most people seem to think we need a bunch more. But there are probably some who think we already have enough.

It depends on your values. What do you value more – a Little League field, or quiet solitude? Trails and open space, or more development? A soccer field, or the preservation of all trees?

It's safe to say one thing, though. Step by step, the park deficit we inherited at incorporation is being addressed. Over time,



our parks and recreation picture is going to get brighter and brighter.



**Councilmember
Michele Petitti**

Trails, bikeways & paths master plan being refined

Following four public input meetings in all quadrants of the city, a consultant and a Parks Commission subcommittee are continuing their work on a plan to create and link trails, bikeways and paths throughout the city.

Councilwoman Michele Petitti hopes the plan, when it's

implemented, will enhance everyone's quality of life.

"A well-designed network of trails and paths will let people explore and move through our city at a slower pace," Petitti said. "Many of our residents want to go out their front door

and walk or bike to the nearest park, store or other destination."

Hope Gibson, the city's project manager on the plan, foresees a network of soft and hard surface trails, bike paths and sidewalks that will provide residents with an alternative to cars. Although the plan will tilt toward recreational uses, Gibson expects many residents will also use the network as an alternative transportation option.

Petitti believes the plan should do a good job of connecting the community, even in places where routes are not now available.

"The city is going to have to look at the purchase of some easements and property to make sure we have a complete network," Petitti said.

SURVEY - continued from page 1

(101 out of 416 respondents stated no opinion.)

"I'm happy the city has imposed a moratorium on growth since incorporation."

Among those who stated an opinion:

- 89.5% agreed or strongly agreed
- 10.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed (57 out of 419 respondents stated no opinion)

"I'm satisfied with the leadership of the City Council and the city administration."

Among those who stated an opinion:

- 73.6 % agreed or strongly agreed
- 26.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed (149 out of 407 respondents stated no opinion.)

"It's important for the city to build more athletic fields for our youth."

Among those who stated an opinion:

- 80.8% agreed or strongly agreed
- 19.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed (86 out of 414 respondents stated no opinion.)

Police services and preservation of historical buildings also drew positive response in the agree/disagree portion of the survey.

In a second, more open-ended section of the survey, residents weighed in on a variety of topics.

The city's scenic beauty came out on top when residents were asked to name the one thing they most enjoyed about living in Sammamish.

Traffic ranked number one when they were asked what they would most like to change.

"Fixing the historical transportation deficit on the plateau is still a top priority with residents," Larson said. "The city's continued emphasis on roads appears to be well placed."

Restaurants, movies and shopping were often mentioned when residents were asked what they would like to see more of in Sammamish. But those same things were frequently listed as items people were content to pursue outside of the city limits.

Dr. Peterson presented the community survey to the City Council at its regular meeting on June 17. City Manager Ben Yazici said he was very pleased with the survey results.

"We wanted a broad picture of community sentiment." Yazici said. "We wanted to hear from everybody, including

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The City Council is in the process of completing a series of study sessions on the comp plan.

At the last study session on June 10, the council discussed growth capacity, affordable housing and employment targets.

City staff and consultants will now proceed to make the council's recommended adjustments to the plan and prepare a final draft of the document.

An additional opportunity for public comment, particularly related to council changes, will be available at a final public hearing on Wednesday, July 30. Plan adoption is anticipated to occur in September.

those who normally don't have time to make their feelings known.

"I'm so excited that, overall, our community has given us a great vote of confidence. I know this will give our city staff and council a big boost and help us push even harder to make Sammamish a special place."

Sammamish Commons draws a crowd



*Deputy Mayor
Ron Haworth*

Around 200 residents turned out June 7 for an open-air open house at the site of a new 30-acre civic and park complex the city is planning along 228th Avenue.

By December 2004, the site will feature, among other things, a new City Hall and police station building, an amphitheater, trails, open space, picnic areas and a sports meadow.

City Councilman Ron Haworth, who initiated the city's successful effort to buy the initial 10 acres of the property, says Sammamish Commons should become a central focal point for the entire community.

"I feel extremely positive about that," Haworth said. "That's the reason I thought the city should pursue the property."

"If we do the job right, it's something our residents are going to be very proud of."

The June 7 open house focused on the "lower twenty acres," the section where most of the park facilities will be located. Visitors were asked to provide input on two design concepts for the park.

A family takes the opportunity to "cruise and peruse" the future site of Sammamish Commons at the open house held June 7.



**SAMMAMISH...
not a used car lot!**



When Police Chief Richard Baranzini thinks of Sammamish, he sees beautiful scenery, spacious developments and a vibrant, youthful population. He frequently calls it "the jewel of the Eastside."

But, recently, something else has started creeping into his vision of the community.

"There are too many used cars illegally parked and marked for sale in our town," Baranzini said.

In June, as part of a "problem-solving" project, the police department placed blue Parking Warning notices on the windshields of offending autos. Starting in July, \$20 fines are being issued.

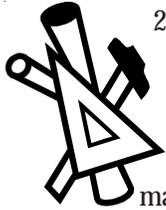
"We hope more stringent measures won't be needed to solve this problem," Baranzini said. The accumulation of used cars for sale in several Sammamish locations is not only unsightly, it's illegal, Baranzini said. They violate a city ordinance, which prohibits the parking of "any vehicle upon any (public right-of-way) for the principle purpose of... displaying such vehicle for sale."

Chief Baranzini's final thought: "If we follow the rules, we can enjoy the natural beauty of Sammamish and keep it from looking like a used car lot."

CORRIDOR – continued from page 1

southern segment while we press forward with the northern section.”

The segment to the north, from Southeast Eighth Street to Northeast Eighth Street, is about to start the design and environmental documentation phase. Construction of the northern segment, which will align with roads already in use, is expected to begin in 2005.



The southern segment, on the other hand, may never be built.

“That will depend on many factors,” Public Works Director John Cunningham said. “Will there be sufficient growth in that area? Will landowners sell their property to developers?”

So why bother to choose an alignment now? City Manager Ben Yazici says it could save taxpayers a lot of money.

“If we identify an alignment in the southern segment, developers will have to pay for the road if and when it’s built,” Yazici said. “If we just let this issue drift, the city will have to pay for a greater proportion of the improvements.”

“The infrastructure deficit in Sammamish is largely the result of poor planning before incorporation. Now that we’re a city, part of the “catching up” process is to do a better job of looking ahead.”

The public comment period on the current draft study report has been extended until July 31. An amended draft report, which will compare southern alignment alternatives without reference to the northern alignment, is expected to be issued in November or December. Key dates include:

- **July 31** – New deadline for public comment on the current draft study report.
- **November, December** – Release of amended draft study report focusing on southern alignment alternatives.

Photo contest winners!

Three Sammamish snapshots, all of them focused on the natural beauty of the community, won top honors in the city’s photo contest. The winning photographers were honored at the June 3 City Council meeting.

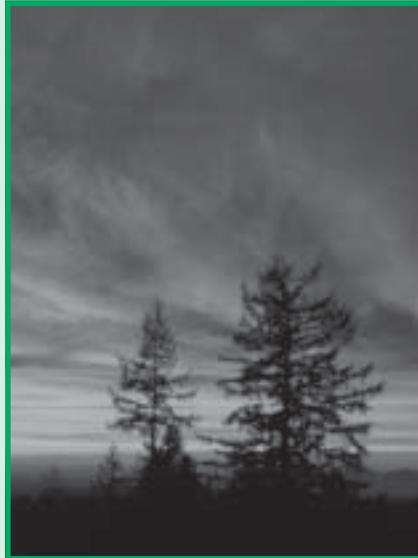
Wendy Wheeler won third place with a beautifully backlit picture of a spider’s web in the woods near Beaver Lake.

Second place went to Scott Smith for his photo of evergreen trees against a spectacular plateau sunset.

And Trish Ropell took the top spot with a classic Sammamish scene – the Cascades framed between two stands of trees (see page 1).

Our congratulations to Wendy, Scott and Trish for their prizewinners – and our thanks also to the many other photographers who submitted their excellent work.

Keep your eye on the city website – many, if not most, of the photographs will be used in the days ahead to beautify our newly improved site!



Sammamish residents submitted many excellent photos for use on our website and in our publications.

- **February 2004** – Council study session on amended draft study report.
- **February 2004** – Public hearing on amended draft study report.
- **March 2004** – Release of final study report.
- **May 2004** – Public hearing on final study report.
- **June 2004** – Council selects preferred southern alignment.

The proposed north/south corridor is intended, among other things, to improve traffic flow, provide better access for fire and police vehicles, and enhance internal connectivity within the community. Beginning in August 2002, the city held four community open houses to elicit public comment on the proposed East Sammamish/244th corridor.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday, July 1

- Public Works Comm., 5:30 pm
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE
- Community Dvmt. Committee, 6:00 pm
*SSammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*
- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*

Friday, July 4 - City Hall Closed

Monday, July 7

- Neighborhood Connections, 6:30 pm
Fire Station 82, 1851 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, July 8

- Community Dvmt. Committee, 6:00 pm
*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*
- Council Study Session 6:00 pm
*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*

Tuesday, July 15

- Finance Committee, 6:00 pm
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, July 15

- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*

Monday, July 21

- Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 pm
Beaver Lake Lodge, 25201 SE 24th Street

Tuesday, July 22

- Public Safety Comm., 6:00 pm - *City Hall*
- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
PublicLibrary, 825 228th Avenue NE
- City Council Special Meeting, 7:30 pm
*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer
1510 228th Avenue SE*

AUGUST

There are no City Council meetings scheduled for the month of August.

Monday, August 18

- Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 pm
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Summer Concert Series

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- July 10
Kevin Juma (Rockin' Country)
- July 17
The Casuals (Pop Dance Music)
- July 24
Danny Godinez (Cuban Rock)
- July 31
Guarnari Underground (World Music)
- Aug. 14
Timeless Soul (Motown Classics)
- Aug. 21
Dr. Funk (Funk & Groove)
- Aug. 28
Sammamish Symphony



All events are at Pine Lake Park, 228th Avenue at SE 24th Street. Carpooling is encouraged; overflow parking is available at Discovery Elementary School.

Wooden O Theatre Shakespeare

Saturdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- July 19
Much Ado About Nothing
- July 26
Henry V



Comcast Outdoor Cinema

Friday/Saturday, music at 7:00 p.m.; movies at dusk

- August 8
The Dudley Manlove Quartet (Lounge Grooves)
Movie:
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
- August 9
Left Hand Smoke (Jammin' Rock)
Movie:
ET/Extraterrestrial



Molly looks for the mail carrier to deliver her new pet license.

Online pet licenses

Starting in July, Sammamish residents will be able to go "online" instead of standing "in line" for their pet licenses. Go to www.metrokc.gov/petlicensesonline and simply purchase or renew your pet licenses with a credit card.

The city is working in partnership with King County, which is running the new program on a trial basis through September. License costs are:

- \$17 for altered pets
- \$55 for unaltered pets
- \$5 for pets under 6 months of age
- In addition, there is a small convenience fee to cover the county's online costs.

A survey form is available as you exit Pet Licenses Online if you have comments or questions. Program administrators can also be reached at 206-



Tigerlily uses a slightly more "paws on" approach.



Ken Kilroy
Mayor



Ron Haworth
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Troy Romero
Councilmember

At the June 3, 2003 regular council meeting, the Sammamish City Council approved the appointment of 34 members to the Sammamish Youth Board for the 2003/2004 school year.

Youth Board members plan and participate in many community events and provide a student liaison between Skyline High School, Eastlake High School and the City Council.

A public hearing was held at the June 17, 2003 council meeting to consider the extension of the building moratorium through February 2004.

Council directed that a skate park be located between the proposed City Hall and 228th Avenue SE as part of the development of the Sammamish Commons Park.

The City Council scheduled an informal dinner meeting with the Redmond City Council for June 25 at Sahalee Country Club to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Project update:

- **228th Avenue** – Thomco Construction began the final phase of improvements in late May. The current work, which will extend improvements north to Northeast 12th Place, is expected to wrap up in November.
- **SE 24th Street Pedestrian Facilities** – Design is underway with construction slated for later this year. These improvements will stretch from Discovery Elementary to 244th Avenue S.E.
- **Park and Ride** – Sound Transit is in final design for the new Park and Ride at 228th Avenue S.E. and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road. Construction will begin in the second quarter of 2004.
- **Water Main** – Installation on East Lake Sammamish Shoreline S.E. between S.E. 39th and S.E. 40th scheduled for July and August.
- **Sanitary Sewer** – Installation on N.E. 4th Street between 208th Avenue S.E. and 212th Avenue S.E. scheduled for July through December.
- **Water and Sewer** – Installation on 228th Avenue S.E. between S.E. Fourth Street and S.E. Eighth Street scheduled for June and July.



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