



Ebright Creek Park delayed by appeal

Two local residents have appealed the city's decision to issue a DNS (determination of non-significance) on a proposed, 12-acre neighborhood park just west of 212th Avenue.

Ebright Creek Park, scheduled to begin construction this year, features paths, picnic facilities, children's play areas and a combination baseball/soccer field for youth. A creek viewing platform, wetland boardwalk, parking lot and restroom are also part of the design.

City Manager Ben Yazici says it's unclear how long the appeal will delay construction of the park.

"We were very careful with this park design and the environmental review process," Yazici said. "We hope the hearing examiner can look at this appeal in the near future."

In their appeal, the two residents allege, among other things, that the city

failed to properly address fish, wildlife, noise, privacy, traffic safety and quality of life issues.

The city issued the DNS after putting its park plan through a state-mandated environmental review. The issuance of the DNS means the city won't be required to prepare an environmental impact statement or provide any additional mitigation measures beyond those already in the park plan.

The appeal challenges that stance. In their notice of appeal, the residents ask for a full environmental impact statement for the project.



Looking north from the proposed site of Ebright Creek Park

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Council appoints planning commission

Following the selection of seven resident volunteers, the city's first Planning

Commission was expected to hold its inaugural meeting September 10.

The new commissioners, appointed by the City Council on July 30, are:

- Stuart Carson
- Robert Conger
- Scot Jarvis
- Robert Keller
- Catherine Kendall
- Karen Moran
- Will Sadler

The Planning Commission will make planning policy recommendations

to the City Council and offer advice on development regulations. The commissioners will also make recommendations on periodic adjustments to the city's comprehensive plan.

Sammamish incorporated in 1999. Prior to the selection of the Planning Commission, the city was served by a Planning Advisory Board (PAB), a group of resident volunteers who created the city's first comprehensive plan.

That plan is expected to be adopted by the City Council in September.

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Mayor Ken Kilroy

Although there is a lot more to creating a community than building roads and designing parks, residents of Sammamish should feel good about their new infrastructure.

The biggest capital improvement project in plateau history – the expansion of 228th Avenue – is almost complete. This 3-year, \$30 million effort is

scheduled to wrap up in November, giving the city a high-functioning, main arterial to be proud of.

The completion of 228th is an important and symbolic moment in our city's short history. After years of under investment before incorporation, 228th shows what a community can do if it decides to take charge and govern itself.

But there are a lot of other items on our catch-up list.

A long sidewalk along Southeast 24th Street will soon allow pedestrians to make their way safely from 228th to the vicinity of Beaver Lake. Construction is slated to begin this year.

Still in the planning stages – the Park & Ride at 228th Avenue and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, and the new roundabout at Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and Southeast 32nd Way. Improvements to 244th Avenue and more sidewalks near schools are also on the list.

After buying 217 acres of land for future park development, the city is now busying itself with park design and construction. Ebright Creek Park, along 212th Avenue, will be the first, brand-new park paid for with your tax dollars. Although a legal appeal of the project may delay completion of the 12-acre neighborhood park, the city hopes to begin construction this year.

Pine Lake Park, site of the popular “Summer Nights at the Park” program, will also undergo a substantial renovation this year. An improved ball field, better restrooms and a new parking area are just some of the changes planned.

I'm happy to note that these and other infrastructure investments are being made without stretching our resources. Once we became a city, and started keeping our tax dollars at home, we were in a position to responsibly fund our community's priorities.

Currently, we're in the middle of a two-year budget cycle that will invest \$40 million in new infrastructure. Before incorporation, King County's capital expenditures on the plateau averaged a meager \$1 million annually.

This dramatic rise in community investment hasn't been funded with higher city taxes. All we've had to do is keep our money at home, and mind it carefully.

Much of the credit for that goes to City Manager Ben Yazici and the excellent team he's recruited to staff City Hall. We're a lean, well-run city with rock solid budgets. All the more reason to feel good about the positive changes we're seeing throughout our community.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

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- John Cunningham.....Public Works Director/ACM*
- Ray Gilmore.....Community Development Director
- Lyman Howard.....Financial Services Director
- 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

Ebright (cont. from page 1)

“This could be a pivotal appeal,” Yazici said.

“There is broad and powerful support for new parks and ball fields in the community,” Yazici said. “But every specific location will have its share of environmental and social impacts that need to be considered.

“The issues surfacing at Ebright Creek Park are issues we'll likely revisit as the city pursues the community mandate to build more parks.”





Pioneer farmhouse closer to restoration

The historic Reard/Freed house, built more than a century ago, will temporarily pass through city hands on its way to a major restoration.

In partnership with Buchan Homes and Lozier Construction, the city will take ownership of the house after it is repositioned near its current location within the Crossings of Pine Lake plat.

Shortly thereafter, the city will offer the home for sale to any builder or remodeler who will restore the decorated pioneer farmhouse to a semblance of its original condition. Once the restoration is complete, the city will transfer the land and home to the purchaser.

The house is located at 1807 212th Avenue S.E., where it is readily visible from the road. Current plans call for the home to be moved even closer to 212th Avenue.

The Sammamish Heritage Society says Jacob Reard bought the land where the home is located around 1890. The home was built sometime later that decade and went through several owners before Oscar Freed acquired the property in 1930. The Freeds raised chickens and Hereford cattle on the land.

This isn't the Reard/Freed home's first brush with fame. Portions of a 1980 movie, "Act of Love," were filmed at the house. That movie starred Ron Howard, Robert Foxworth and Mickey Rourke.

228th project on the homestretch

After weeks of work installing utilities and other sub-surface structures, contractors recently began making dramatic progress above ground as the expansion of 228th Avenue nears completion.

The final stretch of this years-long effort is expected to wrap up in November. When finished, the city's main arterial – in its new, 5-lane configuration – will stretch from south of the QFC shopping center to north of the Safeway shopping center.

What was once a narrow, dangerous, 3-mile stretch of county road through the heart of the plateau is about to become the city's signature boulevard – complete with landscaping, lights, sidewalks, median strips and turn lanes.

"We're happy to report this final phase is on schedule for completion in November," Director of Public Works John Cunningham said. "We'd like to thank people for their patience as we finish up this top-priority project."

Sammamish incorporated in 1999, with plateau residents calling for more and better roads. The completion of the 228th project will mark an important moment in the city's young history.

"This road will give residents solid evidence that self-governance has its rewards," City Manager Ben Yazici said.



Workers pour a broad, new sidewalk along 228th Avenue. Road paving on the last phase of this ambitious project will begin in September.

Comp plan adoption scheduled for Sept.

The city's first comprehensive plan is scheduled to be adopted at the City Council's regular meeting on Sept. 16. That meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, 1510 228th Avenue S.E.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments on the Proposed Final Comprehensive Land Use Plan may do so by sending them to the attention of the City Clerk before Sept. 16, 2003. Send all correspondence to City of Sammamish, 486 228th Avenue N.E., Sammamish, WA 98074 or email your submission to:

manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Questions regarding the proposed comprehensive plan should be directed to the Department of Community Development staff at 425-898-0660 or by visiting City Hall during regular office hours, Monday through Friday.



Thanks to Evergreen Ford!

Sammamish Police Chief Richard Baranzini stands next to a Ford Explorer donated by Evergreen Ford of Issaquah. The vehicle will be dedicated to Police Explorers and city youth programs in Sammamish.



This national event promotes familiarity among neighbors, police and firefighters.

National Night Out

Firefighter Rick Whalen shares food and fun with residents of the Avignon and Keswick neighborhoods during National Night Out on Aug. 5.

The national event, which promotes familiarity among neighbors, police and firefighters, featured several get-togethers in various Sammamish neighborhoods.

Whalen, based at Eastside Fire and Rescue Station No. 82 in Sammamish, went through the food line and helped youngsters get acquainted with the inside of a fire truck.



Volunteers!



Shannon Keller, David Nadalin and daughter Nichole, and DeeDee Holt work at the Kiwanis Club food booth during "Summer Nights at the Park."



Sal Pagan is one of three volunteers who help at the police department's reception desk.

The volunteer spirit is making Sammamish a stronger and more caring community! So says Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici.

"As a new city, we benefit enormously from residents who give of their time," Yazici said. "I salute them and all the good work they do."

"From Boy Scouts to the Heritage Society, all age groups are represented," Yazici said.

"The Parks, Planning and Arts Commissions, the Friends of the Sammamish Library, and all the other volunteer groups are helping us develop a much stronger sense of community," Yazici said. "I hope all residents will look for their opportunity to contribute and build on this positive trend."

Members of the Sammamish Youth Board after the first cleanup of their adopted road.



Also providing food during "Summer Nights at the Park" events are Rotary Club volunteers Lisa McElroy, Keenon Kennedy and Anné Burke.



Boosting maintenance increases use of city parks



“Since incorporation, our commitment to better maintenance has brought more people out to the parks.” - Jeff Watling

The community-wide call for new parks is a priority the city has pursued with land purchases and the design of new facilities.

But Parks and Recreation Manager Jeff Watling says the improving park picture in Sammamish also owes a great deal to better maintenance.

“I’ve heard a lot of compliments about our existing ball fields and parks,” Watling said. “Since incorporation, our commitment to better maintenance has brought more people out to the parks.”

Little League parents and users of Pine Lake Park beach are just some of the people who have expressed appreciation, Watling said.

As new parks come on line, the city will continue its emphasis on solid maintenance.

“Mowing the grass frequently, maintaining play areas and taking good care of ball fields is a very important part of our mission to manage all our park resources responsibly,” Watling said. “Our hard-working maintenance crews deserve the credit for the upswing in park usage.”

Fish-Friendly culvert installed

A failing culvert underneath 212th Avenue and Southeast 24th Street was replaced by a brand-new box culvert last month.

The new fish-friendly culvert features a helpful, handwritten sign for our seasonal visitors.





Q & A WITH

*Tim Larson
Communications Manager*

Q: As a relatively new city, Sammamish faces the usual challenge of developing good communication with its residents. How is that effort going?

A: If you compared our performance to other new cities, I think we're doing quite well. But this is an area where you always strive to do better.

Q: What are some of the basic of city communication?

A: The monthly city newsletter, the city web page and our soon-to-be-launched city television channel are three of our biggest tools. If residents choose to, they can access all three from their homes and stay very well informed.

Another basic tool is the main City Hall phone number – 898-0660. When people have questions and concerns, that's a great place to start.

Q: The city newsletter used to come out on a quarterly basis. Now it comes out every month. Why the change?

A: This is a growing, changing city. Issues can pop up in a hurry. The monthly schedule allows us to put out accurate information in a more timely manner.

Historically, Sammamish has also seen its share of rumor and misinforma-

tion. Although that appears to be a diminishing pattern, the monthly newsletter allows us to address misinformation more quickly.

Q: There have also been some changes to the city website.

A: That's a work in progress. We improved the look of the website recently, but we're continuing to work on content and ease of use.

This community is very savvy about computers. As you might expect, we've been getting some valuable – and sometimes quite pointed – suggestions on how to improve the city's website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).

Q: Tell us about the television channel.

A: Like most cities, our franchise agreement with the cable company provides for a city channel – in this case Channel 21.

Initially, we'll air a few informational videos and provide bulletin board information.

We've already created one video with the help of Skyline High School's television department. That's a production partnership we hope will grow over time.

Eventually, after our new City Hall is built, we'll show our City Council meetings as well.

It's not going to be "must see TV," but we're excited. Watching City Council members grapple with complex issues gives people a real accurate view of how city government works.

Q: That's the second time you've used the word "accurate." Why does that word keep coming up?

A: Because accuracy saves time and money. It's expensive to chase down disruptive rumors, set up special clarification meetings and put the record straight. Misinformation is a monkey wrench. It slows the city's pursuit of community goals.

There are always going to be disagreements among our residents. No amount of "accurate" information will change the fact that people have different values and goals.

But a debate conducted on the basis of fact is going to reach its conclusion much more quickly than a debate burdened by rumors, accusations and misinformation.

Q: How can a communications person help?

A: By providing accurate information early and often so the rumors don't take root. And then, if rumors do get started, by addressing them as quickly and vigorously as possible.

Trust is a vital ingredient in any successful city. We can't let misinformation erode the faith our residents have in their municipal government.

Q: What if the city really does mess up? What then?

A: Accuracy needs to cut both ways. Since the city recruits from the human race, it's a given that we'll make mistakes.

Fortunately, the transparency of city government is impressive. Our documents are all public. City Hall is the best place to find accurate evidence if and when the city stumbles.

Applicants needed for ARTS COMMISSION

Interested residents are encouraged to apply for two vacancies on the city's Arts Commission. The commission, which meets once a month, is brand new.

The new commissioners, who will join five volunteers already in place, will be confirmed by the City Council.

Please send a letter of interest, and a resume featuring relevant experience, to the City Clerk's Office, 486 228th Avenue N.E., Sammamish, WA, 98074. For more information, call 425-836-7904.

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- Tim Larson*

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Ken Kilroy
Mayor



Ron Haworth
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Troy Romero
Councilmember

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 2

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm
Sammamish City Hall, 486 - 228th Ave. NE
- Community Dvmnt. Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, September 10

- Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, September 16

- Finance Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish City Hall, 486 - 228th Ave. NE

Wednesday, September 17

- Arts Commission, 7:00 pm
Bellewood - 3710 Providence Point Drive SE
- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, September 22

- Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, September 23

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Library, 825 - 228th Ave. NE
- City Council Study Session, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District:
1510 - 228th Avenue SE*

OCTOBER

Monday, October 6

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

Tuesday, October 7

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm
Sammamish City Hall, 486 - 228th Ave. NE
- Community Dvmnt. Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, October 14

- City Council Study Session, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, October 15

- Arts Commission, 7:00 pm
Bellewood, 3710 Providence Point Drive SE

Tuesday, October 21

- Finance Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish City Hall, 486 - 228th Ave. NE
- City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, October 27

- Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, October 28

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Library, 825 - 228th Ave. NE
- City Council Study Session, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Another recycling opportunity

The city, in partnership with King County and the state Department of Ecology, will hold two recycling events over the next few weeks.

The first, at Eastlake High School, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27. The second event will be held at Sunny Hills Elementary on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Materials to be accepted include:

- Appliances and scrap metal
- Tires
- Electronic equipment
- Motor oil, filters and anti-freeze
- Household goods and clothing

These events are designed to reduce the amount of material going to the King County landfill. All Sammamish residences are slated to receive a flyer on the recycling events shortly before the scheduled dates.

Hazardous waste will NOT be accepted. For more information on disposal of hazardous waste, please call the Hazards Line at 206-296-4692.



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