

Whitten, Cross win; Petitti re-elected



Michele Petitti

There will be some new faces behind the dais when the City Council holds its first meeting in 2004.

Nancy Whitten and Mark Cross, both winners in the November election, will join incumbents Michele Petitti, Kathleen Huckabay, Don Gerend and Jack Barry on the council.

A third new member will join the group shortly thereafter, when the council appoints a replacement for Troy Romero, who resigned in November.

"I look forward to the ideas and the energy our new members will provide," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We have wonderful oppor-



Nancy Whitten

tunities to explore in the months and years ahead."

Whitten and Cross will step in for Ron Haworth and Ken Kilroy, a pair of two-term council members who decided not to

run for re-election. Whitten, who defeated Karen Moran in November, will take Council Position 4. Cross, who went up against Mike Rundle, will step into Council Position 6.

In the Position 2 race, 2-year incumbent Michele Petitti defeated challenger Will Sadler. Petitti's second victory earned her a 4-year term.



Mark Cross

COUNCIL TO APPOINT NEW MEMBER

The City Council has designed a highly public process to select a replacement for former Councilman Troy Romero, who resigned in November.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, from 1-4 p.m., the council is scheduled to interview six candidates at Skyline High School. The public is invited.

The finalists for the position are:

- Robert T. Abbott
- Lee Felling
- Jeffrey S. Griffin
- Robert Keller
- Lawrence Schack
- Bob White



The candidates, who will all be in the same room, will respond to a list of six questions. City Attorney Bruce Disend, as the moderator, will pose the questions.

The public will be invited to participate by submitting additional questions to the moderator and by turning in written comments on the candidates.

Following the interviews, community residents and council members will also have a chance to visit with the candidates during an informal reception from 4-5 p.m.

Although no specific date has been set for the appointment of Romero's

replacement, the selected candidate is expected to take office in January.

For more information on the six candidates, please visit the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

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Mayor Ken Kilroy

Over the past four years, it's been my pleasure to serve the residents of Sammamish as a member of the City Council. But after two terms, and a very eventful 2003 wielding the Mayor's gavel, I've decided to bring this chapter of my life to a close.

When I walk out of the council chambers, I'll leave with a strong sense of accomplishment and a lot of great memories.

It's been especially impressive to see the rapid progress we've made since incorporation in 1999. The most striking change is the level of investment we've made in roads, parks and other capital expenditures.

And we've done it without losing our lean approach to city government. Most Puget Sound cities have around 10 employees per thousand population. Sammamish has less than two employees per thousand.

On a more personal level, I will also take away a great sense of connection with the community and its many intelligent, energetic citizens. I've met you during my campaigns, around the neighborhoods and at many a council meeting.

Working with you and my colleagues on the council has been a rewarding experience. The laughs, frustrations and satisfactions of our common effort will stay with me for life.

A special pat on the back should also go to City Manager Ben Yazici for his patience, professionalism and commitment to good government. To that end, the council unanimously approved a resolution on Nov. 18 thanking Ben for his good work. Anyone who can take direction from the council, push his staff hard, and still be well liked by both deserves our gratitude.

As for me, it's been a pleasure to work on behalf of our young city, and I look forward to watching Sammamish grow into a mature and special community. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Kilroy".

Judge hears trail appeal

Twenty months after the city issued a permit allowing the East Lake Sammamish Trail to be built on an old rail bed, two opposing teams of lawyers argued the merits of the permit before a Snohomish County Superior Court Judge on Dec. 4.

King County attorneys argued that the city was correct in issuing the permit. They said Hearing Examiner John Galt was mistaken when he threw out the city's permit in April.

Attorneys for trailside residents supported Galt's decision, saying the city's code requires the county to look at alternative paths with less environmental impact.



Proposed East Lake Sammamish Trail passes Sammamish homes

The county project aims to build an 11-mile recreational trail between Redmond and Issaquah. Approximately 7 miles of the county's trail fall inside Sammamish city limits.

Homeowners say the county's rail bed path is overly intrusive and unsafe in some areas, and should be modified. The county says the detours proposed by the homeowners are expensive, unsafe and fraught with design and legal problems.

At the end of the one-day appeal hearing in Everett, Judge Larry McKeeman gave no indication how soon he would issue a decision.

The county argued that an alternative path supported by the homeowners – commonly known as the Rundle-Haro plan – would have more environmental impact than the rail bed alignment, noting that the alternative would require modification of steep slopes.

The county also questioned the wisdom of building on slopes to protect the "low-value" wetlands along the rail bed route. Homeowners' attorneys responded by saying the hearing examiner properly interpreted the city's code, which they said places greater emphasis on wetland protection.

County attorneys also raised a new argument, briefly saying that local law is preempted by federal "rails-to-trails" legislation if homeowners use the local ordinances to block a trail.

Homeowners' attorneys, and the city attorney, responded by saying the "preemption" argument was tardy, and inappropriate for the appeal hearing.

Planning Advisory Board honored

The Planning Advisory Board (PAB), a volunteer group responsible for putting together the city's first comprehensive plan, was honored Nov. 19 at Sahalee Country Club.

Hosted by Mayor Ken Kilroy and other members of the City Council, the PAB members had dinner and were treated to a lengthy round of thanks.

Each of the PAB members also received a commemorative clock thanking them for the "time" they committed to the mammoth project. Over three years, many of the 17 PAB members attended well over 100 meetings.

In his remarks, Mayor Kilroy said the city got a good deal from the PAB.

"They put in three years of hard work, and we thank them with one dinner," Kilroy said. "That's lean, effective city government."

The city's first comprehensive plan was adopted by the City Council on Sept. 16.



Planning Advisory Board members John Rose (left) and Lee Felling visit with another guest before dinner at Sahalee Country Club.

City hits "pause button" on Ebright

The city withdrew its clearing and grading permit for Ebright Creek Park last month after it learned that two of the park's design features run counter to city code.



The city learned of the two code discrepancies at a pre-hearing conference on Nov. 7. That conference, held in preparation for an appeal hearing on the park project, revealed the following conflicts:

- A restroom, play structure and picnic shelter have been sketched in too close to the property line. The city's code requires a 50-foot setback for park structures in a residential area.
- The park design calls for soft-surface walking paths through wetland buffers. Although most cities allow such paths, the city's code prohibits them.

The errors were brought to the city's attention by the appellants' attorney.

"This community has made it clear it wants us to build parks," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We think it makes sense to pause and get everything right.

"We don't want to run into similar stumbling blocks when we do more parks down the road."

There appear to be two options, Yazici said.

"We can either tweak our park plans, or tweak our code," he said, noting that the choice will be up to the City Council.

Thank You! City celebrates volunteers

Volunteers from all walks of life were honored at a city-sponsored dinner on Dec. 3 at Beaver Lake Lodge. The dinner was well attended with over 75 people joining in the festivities.

Among others, the city thanked members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts Commission, Planning Commission, Technology Committee and Sammamish Youth Board.

Mayor Ken Kilroy served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming and thanking the hard-working volunteers on behalf of the City Council.

Representatives from each group were invited to say a few words regarding the activities of their commission, board or committee.

In addition to dinner, volunteers also received a pocket planner and pen set from the city.

A similar function was held last month for members of the Planning Advisory Board (see story on page 3). The city hopes to make volunteer appreciation an annual event.



Members of the Sammamish Youth Board await dinner. From left to right: Nicki Bastine, Ryan Nguyen, Kellen Klein, Elizabeth Lepere and Lynde Moffatt.



Councilman Don Gerend stands between two technology committee volunteers, Rick Johnson (left) and Rick Olsen (right).



Councilwoman Kathleen Huckabay and City Manager Ben Yazici (both right) join volunteers in the buffet line.

Sammamish Youth Board cleans up



Members of the Sammamish Youth Board clean up 212th Avenue. From left to right, Alexa Cabellon, Lauren Hawkins, Courtney Allen, Katie Candle, Sangita Kode, Alex Feng, Bridget Beattie and Andrew Seliber. (Not pictured: Andrea Gorder)

Thanks to the Sammamish Youth Board, 212th Avenue has a cleaner, more pleasant appearance this fall.

Last month, a crew of youngsters went up and down a 2-mile stretch of the road, filling trash bags with litter and gathering items for recycling.

As part of an “Adopt-A-Road” program, the Sammamish youngsters have committed to cleaning up the road at least twice a year.

“We love these kids,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “They’re building a tradition of service in Sammamish that future generations will be able to follow.”

A select number of Sammamish youth also attended the statewide Drug Prevention Summit in Yakima this fall.

There, they heard nationally recognized speakers and attended educational workshops. Among other things, they learned how the involvement of youth can help communities become safer and healthier.

The Sammamish Youth Board members came away with more than knowledge; they were also awarded a mini-grant to design and develop a drug/alcohol prevention project in their own community.

Please control your dog

It’s the leash you can do

With complaints mounting that dogs are running free in city parks, police and animal control officers will be on the look out for off-leash pets in the weeks and months ahead.

“Dogs are welcome in our parks, but it’s important that they be under control,” Parks Manager Jeff Watling said. “Out of respect for other park users, we require that dogs remain on their leash at all times.”

Police and King County Animal Control, which provides contract services to Sammamish, may issue \$47 tickets for violation of the city’s leash laws. Those officers will also hand out brochures listing parks in King County that allow off-leash dogs. The nearest to Sammamish is Marymoor Park in Redmond.

In addition to scaring children and other park users, off-leash dogs have also been known to damage salmon-bearing streams.

“Our goal is to promote public safety and protect the environment,” Watling said. “We can all help the cause by being considerate dog owners.”



Ozzie listens attentively as owner Melonie Anderson explains the finer points of good park etiquette.



228th Avenue NE nears completion between Main Street and NE Fourth Street.

228th Update:

If the weather cooperates, streetlights, traffic signals, sidewalks and landscaping are expected to be in place before the end of the year along 228th Avenue. The final layer of asphalt, however, may have to wait until early next year.

“That final lift of pavement requires temperatures above 50 degrees and the temperature needs to be rising,” Public Works Director John Cunningham said. “That probably means February at the earliest.”

That last bit of paving and the final striping of the road should take about a week, Cunningham said, noting that two-way traffic would be maintained throughout.

Earlier this year, 228th was expected to be substantially complete by November. A number of factors have pushed much of the final work into December, Cunningham said.

“Our contractor has experienced delays in the delivery of streetlight and traffic signal poles,” Cunningham said. “The work at NE 8th Street has also been complicated by a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) substation project.”

The PSE substation requires the installation of underground conduit at the intersection of 228th Avenue and NE 8th Street.

“We’re waiting for them to get that installed before we do some of the surface work at that intersection,” Cunningham said.

Project Updates:

SE 24th Street sidewalk (Phase 1):

This project, which includes bike lane and sidewalk improvements, will be substantially complete by the end of December. The improvements run along the northern side of SE 24th Street between 238th Avenue SE and 244th Avenue SE. Retaining walls, drainage facilities and landscaping are also part of this project.

Sammamish Park and Ride:

Sound Transit is doing the final design work on this new park and ride facility at the southwest corner of 228th Avenue SE and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road. Construction is expected to start in early 2005.

244th Avenue – SE 8th to NE 8th:

Preliminary engineering and environmental documentation phase of this project will start early next year.

Roundabout/Issaquah-Pine Lake Road:

Construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and SE 32nd Way is slated to begin next summer.



The city’s first roundabout was built at the intersection of Inglewood Hill Road and 216th Avenue NE.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JANUARY 2004

FEBRUARY 2004

Monday, January 5

- Neighborhood Connections, 6:30 pm
Sahalee Fire Station

Tuesday, January 6

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm
Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Ave. NE
- Community Dev. Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm
*Beaver Lake Middle School
25025 SE 32nd Street, Issaquah*

Thursday, January 8

- Planning Commission, 7:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Saturday, January 10

- Candidate Forum & Reception, 1-5:00 pm
Skyline High School, 1122 - 228th Ave. SE

Tuesday, January 20

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

Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Library, 825 - 228th Ave. NE
- Planning Commission, 7:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, January 26

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

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, February 3

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

Thursday, February 5

- Planning Commission, 7:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, February 10

- Council Study Session, 7:30 pm (if needed)
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, February 17

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

Wednesday, February 18

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

Thursday, February 19

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Library, 825 - 228th Ave. NE

February, Monday, 23

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

February, Tuesday, 24

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

NOTES: *City Council Committee meetings are subject to change in January & February. Please check website for the most current information. The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 - 228th Avenue SE.*

City's portion of property tax stays level



The City Council voted Dec. 2 to keep the city's 2004 property tax levy rate essentially the same – at roughly \$2.60 per thousand of assessed valuation.

At that rate, owners of a \$400,000 home will pay \$1,040 in property taxes to the city. The city's portion accounts for approximately 20 percent of a homeowner's property tax bill. The remainder goes to school districts, the state and other entities.

The city's levy rate trend is slightly downward. In 2002 it was \$2.605 per thousand. In 2003 it was \$2.5991 per thousand. The 2004 rate is expected to be slightly lower still.

The exact levy rate will be calculated when the county provides the city with a precise assessed valuation figure for the entire community.

Neighborhood Connections



The city would like to update its contact information for all homeowners' associations in the community.

Please call Laura Shaughnessy at 425-836-7916 or email her at lshaughnessy@ci.sammamish.wa.us with the proper information.

Please include: contact names, the association's name, postal address, email address and phone number. Individual homeowners who aren't members of a formal association are also welcome to send in contact information.

The city uses this information to keep neighborhoods informed about city business and to invite homeowner representatives to the city's quarterly "Neighborhood Connections" meetings.

The next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 5 at Fire Station 82, will feature a presentation on the city's Sidewalk Improvement Project and a police update on crime.



Ken Kilroy
Mayor



Ron Haworth
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember

November was a busy month for public hearings. The council held a hearing on the Planning Advisory Board's proposed changes to the newly adopted Municipal Code.

A Public Hearing was held on the proposed concurrency ordinances. Both Public Hearings were extended from the November 4 meeting to the November 19 meeting in an effort to provide ample opportunity for public input on these two important issues.

A public hearing was held to consider ordinances regarding the amended

2004 city budget and the proposed tax levy amount. Both of these ordinances must be passed by the City Council before the end of 2003.

Two additional members were appointed to the newly created Arts Commission. They are Carole McCallum and Joe McConnell.

Candidates were recruited to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councilmember Troy Romero. The field was narrowed down to six candidates. The Council will hold public interviews of the candidates in January.

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- Michele Petitti, Councilmember
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- Ben Yazici.....City Manager
- Pete Butkus.....Admin. Services Director/ACM*
- 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

**SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATE FORUM & RECEPTION**

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Saturday, January 10, 1-5 p.m.
Skyline High School
1122 - 228th Ave. SE**



486 - 228th Avenue NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

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