



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 25

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2004

Television debut for City Council

The city's television channel—Sammamish 21 TV—took a big step last month when it aired a City Council meeting for the first time.

If things go according to plan, the city's regular council meetings (on the first and third Tuesday of each month) will continue to be televised on the city's cable channel.

"For now, we're airing the meetings on a tape-delayed basis," Communications Manager Tim Larson said. "Eventually, when we're located in the new City Hall, we should have the option of airing them live also."

A small media company in Redmond is taping the meetings for the city at a cost of just over \$500 apiece.

"They've never done this sort of thing before," Larson said. "But they wanted to get their foot in the door, so they gave us an attractive price."

Too attractive in the eyes of some.

See TV TAPING - Pg. 4

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Pine Lake Park is reborn!



Youngsters make a splash off the dock at Pine Lake Park during warm summer weather. The park is back in business following an ambitious renovation project that began in February.

After 6 months of work and an investment of \$1million, residents are now enjoying a brand new Pine Lake Park.

The improvements are dramatic. A new, 83-space parking lot welcomes drivers. The old ball field, too decrepit for Little League games, is now an expansive multi-purpose field. And the swimming area is now served by im-

proved restrooms and changing areas.

Other eye-catching changes include a new basketball court, climbing walls and new trails.

"I think residents are really going to enjoy the improvements," Director of Parks & Recreation Jeff Watling said. "We held three public meetings in 2002 so residents could

See PINE LAKE - Pg. 2



*Mayor
Kathleen Huckabay*

It's summer in Sammamish and that brings us out of doors walking, playing, jogging, biking, skate boarding and riding scooters. Watching children and adults enjoying themselves in our wonderful summer weather is a wonderful sight.

However, it does bring up an issue that has fast become a priority for the council—road safety. The single biggest concern that we hear from you is speeding and inattentive driving. Unfortunately, our road system contributes to the problem. When this community was built out, the roads and trails were not engineered to create connectivity between homes, parks, schools and shopping. As a result of the lack of connectivity, one has to get in the car and drive some distance to get to a location that could easily be reached by walking or biking. On top of that, neighborhood streets are generally wide and straight thoroughfares engineered for high speeds not suitable for neighborhood roads. That mixture creates serious traffic concerns.

Wanting to find solutions to this problem, we invited Dan Burden (see page 5) to visit our community and recommend some shared engineering solutions—some simple and some complex—from other communities that can work here. We're very excited

and plan to do some pilot projects in the near future. Our plan is to work with a few neighborhoods to determine which concept would work best in their situation, record the results and then expand the successful concepts to other neighborhoods. In the meantime, please take the time to slow down, drive carefully and help make our streets safer for our children and neighbors.

Also, I'm pleased to announce that the city has signed an interlocal agreement with the Lake Washington School District to share recreational facilities in the city. This agreement recognizes that a partnership between the school district and the city is an effective, efficient way to address the severe shortage of ball fields and other recreational facilities in this community. The LWSD has entered into similar agreements with the cities of Redmond and Kirkland and we are looking forward to a long and successful working relationship that will be beneficial to our community.

Lastly, I am a member of the newly formed Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee representing our community. The committee is soliciting your comments about the park. You can find the survey on the city's website, www.ci.sammamish.wa.us. If you use the park or are interested in its future, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Huckabay".

PINE LAKE - Cont. from Page 1

tell us what they wanted. It's nice to see the payoff for all that work.

"I think we've succeeded in adding facilities while preserving the wonderful character of Pine Lake Park."

The improvements should also make the 19-acre park a better neighbor to Pine Lake.

"We've connected the restroom to the sewer system and we've built a significant storm water system," Watling said. "Before, there used to be quite a bit of runoff into the lake."

That runoff was especially worrisome because cars used to park right next to the beach and it was feared oil leaks were being washed into the water.

"Our new parking lot is taking care of that," Watling said. "It's away from the beach and has a good drainage system."

On hot days, when the parking lot fills up, overflow parking is available across 228th Avenue at Discovery Elementary.

No ball games will be scheduled for the new sports field this summer. Watling said the new sod needs time to grow in. It's hoped, however, that the field will be ready to

go for soccer games in the fall.

Pine Lake Park started as French's Resort in the 1930s. Then, after many years as a county park, it was transferred to city ownership in 2000. Before this latest round of improvements, the city had already invested in the park. In 2002, new play structures for young children were built. And the future may bring further changes. The long-range master plan, developed with the help of public input in 2002, leaves the door open to beach, dock and other improvements.



New sod begins to grow in front of a new backstop at a refurbished Pine Lake Park athletic field

Summer fun in Sammamish!

City sponsors a dozen events

Music, movies and Shakespeare!

It's an entertainment trifecta the city will sponsor once again this summer as attendance continues to grow at the outdoor events.

"Last year, we averaged 1,000 people per movie night, 800 for the music concerts, and 350 for Shakespeare," Recreation Coordinator Lynne Handlos said. "Our summer events bring people of all ages together."

This year, five Thursday evening concerts will be staged at Pine Lake Park between Aug. 5 and Sept. 2. Two Shakespeare plays will also be presented at the park, on Saturday, July 17, and Saturday, July 24.

Another summer tradition, the Comcast Outdoor Cinema nights, will return for five dates between July 16

and Aug. 13. The movies will be presented, along with some preliminary live music, on the Skyline High School multi-purpose field. (Please see a complete listing of the summer events below on this page).

Due to limited parking at Pine



"Summer events bring people of all ages together"

Lake Park, residents are encouraged to car pool. Overflow parking will be at Discovery Elementary, across 228th Avenue. For those who want to make a day of it by swimming at Pine Lake before the concerts, Handlos says life-

guards will be on duty on those dates.

Movie night parking is at Skyline High School, with overflow parking at the Mary Queen of Peace church.

Food booths will be present at the events, all of them staffed by local community service groups. No private vendors will be on site this year.

There will also be collection boxes at each concert and movie event for the donation of used infant and children's clothing. Soccer balls for children in Africa will be gathered on movie nights. See www.ci.sammamish.wa.us for details.

The summer events are supported, in part, by a grant from Four Culture, a King County funded cultural development agency.

Handlos says the events, all free, have increased in popularity each summer. And the music has encouraged a warm, participatory atmosphere.

"Even the stiffest get up and dance," Handlos said.

Summer Nights Featured Events

Shakespeare Plays

Pine Lake Park, 6:30 pm

- July 17—Julius Ceasar
- July 24—Love's Labour's Lost

Concerts

Pine Lake Park, 6:30-8 pm

- Aug 5—Shelley and the Curves (Rock/Pop dance)
- Aug 12—Bochinche (Salsa)
- Aug 19—Duffy Bishop (Rhythm and Blues)
- Aug 26—Sammamish Symphony
- Sept 2—The Brittn's (British Invasion)

Movie Nights

Skyline High School, Entertainment at 7 pm, movies at dusk

- July 16—Movie: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (G); Entertainment: Brickhouse Band (Dance music)
- July 23—Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? (PG-13); Entertainment: Cascade Cutups (Bluegrass)
- July 30—Movie: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G); Entertainment: Wild Life (British Invasion)
- Aug 6—Movie: Seabiscuit (PG-13); Entertainment: Innervations (Jazz)

- Aug 13—Movie: League of their Own (PG); Entertainment: Rockaway (Classic Rock)



Sammamish Commons Takes Shape

The city applied for two permits last month as it forged ahead on its plan to build a new City Hall in the midst of a 30-acre park and civic complex.

Project Manager Sevda Baran says she hopes the Conditional Use Permit, Commercial Development Permit, and a SEPA (State Environmental Police Act) determination will all be issued in September.

If building permits follow in October, construction could start as early as December, Baran said. Construction of the City Hall building, which will also house the police department, is expected to take 10 months, putting completion somewhere in late 2005.

That timeline, however, is a best-case scenario, Baran cautioned, noting that appeals are common on large projects.

Along with the new City Hall, Sammamish Commons will feature, among other things, an amphitheater, a public plaza, trails, park amenities, and a skateboard park.

The permit applications and other related information are available on the city's website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us, and at City Hall, 486 228th Ave. NE.



*City Hall—Viewed from the Southwest
(Design above is not final)*



*City Hall Main Entrance—Viewed from 228th Avenue
(Design above is not final)*

TV TAPING - Cont. from Page 1



Camera operator tapes a portion of the June 15 City Council meeting.

“I got a call from a communications guy in Seattle who had asked for bids on a similar meeting,” Larson said. “Most of his bids were coming in ten times higher.

“When his commissioners read in the paper that our costs were around \$500 a meeting, he got a lot of heat. He called me to find out how we did it.

“Naturally, for \$500, we’re not going to get perfection. We’re still

trying to figure out the microphone system in that room.

“But we’ll learn as we go, and live with a hiccup or two along the way.”

Initially, the meetings will air four times a day – at 7 pm, 1 am, 7 am and 1 pm. That schedule, however, is subject to change. Please consult the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us for the latest Sammamish 21 TV schedule.

Residents on the Millennium cable system can view Sammamish 21 TV on channel 61.

Learning to walk

Dan Burden brings his “pedestrian-friendly” vision to Sammamish

Although recent road improvements have helped, Sammamish still suffers its share of traffic congestion. What else can the city do, besides building new roads?

Dan Burden has an idea: How about walking?

As the Executive Director of Walkable Communities, Inc., a Florida-based non-profit, Burden is nationally known for his efforts to make cities more “pedestrian friendly.”

Late last month, Burden came to Sammamish to visit with residents, city staff, planning commissioners and members of the City Council.

After scouting around the city, Burden says Sammamish would benefit greatly if a system of trails, walkways and bicycle paths were created to enhance “connectivity.”

“It’s a great opportunity that you have,” Burden said.



Dan Burden is briefed by Public Works Director Delora Kerber at the intersection of 228th Avenue and NE 4th Street.

But it won’t be easy.

“Nothing is flat,” he laughed. “(Sammamish) is one of the more challenging places in the country.”

Increased “connectivity,” however, would have numerous benefits. If a short path connected two cul-de-sacs, a

youngster wouldn’t need a parent to drive him the long way around to visit a friend. Similar walkways and bike lanes could also put grocery stores and other services within reach, eliminating additional car trips. And beyond congestion relief, connectivity also promotes exercise, health, and the sense of community that comes from traveling common pathways.

Burden also believes in pockets of mixed use, with retail stores available in several locations.

“It shortens the distance people drive for services,” Burden says.

Asked if the community should consider some limited retail development in and around Sammamish Commons, Burden didn’t hesitate.

“Absolutely,” he said.



Dan Burden makes a presentation to the City Council.

City/LWSD partnership to expand ball fields

The city and Lake Washington School District have entered into an agreement that is expected to produce new ball fields and more recreational opportunities for Sammamish youngsters and adults.

The agreement, signed in June, opens the door to joint ventures, with the construction of new fields on 3 acres of open land at East Lake High School the most prominently mentioned option.

Should those fields be built, both students and non-students would be able to use them for baseball, soccer and other sports. Design options are already being discussed by the City Council, but no funding decision has been made.

With the goal of maximizing the use of existing city fields and those at elementary schools, the agreement also calls for the city to handle all scheduling duties. A similar agreement with the Issaquah School District is also in the works.

“Our council has pushed very hard for this,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It allows us to expand recreational opportunities within the city by sharing existing city and school fields, and to look for joint opportunities to develop new ones.

“We greatly appreciate the Lake Washington School District’s willingness to hammer out this agreement with us.”

Parks and Recreation Commission Openings

The City of Sammamish is accepting applications from residents interested in serving as alternates on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the City Clerk, 486 228th Ave. NE, Sammamish, WA 98074. The deadline is July 31.

For more information, please call 836-7904.

Frequently Asked Question

When City Manager Ben Yazici moved from Turkey to the U.S. in 1983, people had a tough time saying his last name. They still do.

“Some people call me ‘Mr. I’m sorry, I can’t pronounce your last name,’” Yazici said with a laugh.

In response to more than a few inquiries, here’s the scoop.

The city manager pronounces it “yuh-ZEE-jee.”

But even that’s in dispute.

His son Kurt, who speaks only a few words in Turk-

Website Survey

Help define our online future

Interested citizens are invited to complete a short online survey about their usage of the city website. This will be a key ingredient in helping determine what features will be added, and which might need to be de-emphasized. Please visit www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click the “Survey” tab to register your thoughts.

In June, the city website took on a new look with a revamped logo, colorful photography from a past photo contest, and navigation tabs across the top. One of the tabs provides access to a Projects page, with detailed information about all current and planned public works projects in the city. The Newsletter tab provides links to additional information on topics covered in the current issue of CityViews@Sammamish.

The entire website is increasingly dynamic. The homepage now lists the next week’s upcoming events directly below the familiar list of news releases. A database handles common items such as ordinances, agendas, minutes, and news items.

Several staff help keep things up-to-date using a custom-designed content management system, leading to more timely updates. A typical day sees several new articles and calendar events.

Though advances have been made, more could be done to make the website as useful as possible to a tech-savvy citizenry. There are many possibilities, but limited resources. For this reason we seek your input.

ish, says it should be pronounced “yuh-ZIH-jih.”

“He’s right. There’s no long ‘E’ sound in Turkish,” Yazici said. “But I guess I’ve Americanized it a bit.”

So residents shouldn’t feel bad about getting it wrong.

“Apparently, even I can’t pronounce it,”

“yuh-ZEE-jee”



City Manager Ben Yazici

Ray Gilmore goes fishin'

Since he became Director of Community Development in May 2000, Ray Gilmore has been running hard. Among other things, his duties have included the comprehensive plan, the city's new municipal code, and the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Now, after more than 26 years in the same line of work, Gilmore has decided to take a break.

"I'm going to travel, hike, fish and do anything else I want," Gilmore said with a laugh. "Although I enjoy my line of work, I want to step back and get away from it for a while."

Gilmore will operate out of Gig Harbor, his long-time home.

"If my wife Jeanie gets tired of me bringing home fish, I may get back into full-time work again," Gilmore said. "We'll see how it goes."

Gilmore says his successor will



Ray Gilmore
Dir. of Community Development

face the same challenge he did: trying to meet the expectations of a new community in a volatile arena.

"Property and property rights are very emotional issues for people," Gilmore said. "Some people will think you're too strict in your interpretation of the law, others will say you're being too lax."

City Manager Ben Yazici says he will advertise nationally for a replacement. In the meantime, Deputy Director Susan Cezar will serve as the acting Director of Community Development.

"Everybody is going to miss Ray," Yazici said. "He's one of the most likeable and experienced colleagues any of us have ever had."

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JULY

Thursday, July 1

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

Monday, July 5

- Holiday - City offices closed

Tuesday, July 6

- City Council Meeting / Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, July 12

- Neighborhood Connections, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 13

- Community Development Committee, 6:30 pm
Sammamish City Hall
- Salmon-Friendly Gardening Presentation, 7 pm
Good Samaritan Church, 1757 244th Ave NE

Friday, July 16

- Summer Nights Movie, 7 pm
Skyline High School

Saturday, July 17

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 7 pm
Pine Lake Park

July 16, 17 & 18

- King County Wastemobile, 10 am - 5 pm
400-228th Ave next to Sammamish Highlands Center

Monday, July 19

- Parks, Open Space & Nat. Resources Cmte, 10 am
Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, July 20

- Public Works Committee, 5 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, July 21

- Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm
Pine Lake Covenant Church, 1715 228th Ave SE

Thursday, July 22

- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Open House on Trails and Critical Areas, after Planning Commission Meeting
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Friday, July 23

- Summer Nights Movie, 7 pm
Skyline High School

Saturday, July 24

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 7 pm
Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 26

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

Tuesday, July 27

- Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
Sammamish City Hall
- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, July 28

- Public Safety Committee Meeting, 6 pm
Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, July 29

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Friday, July 30

- Summer Nights Movie, 7 pm
Skyline High School

AUGUST

Thursday, August 5

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, August 6

- Summer Nights Movie, 7 pm
Skyline High School

Thursday, August 12

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, August 13

- Summer Nights Movie, 7 pm
Skyline High School

Wednesday, August 18

- Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm
Pine Lake Covenant Church, 1715 228th Ave SE

Thursday, August 19

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park

Thursday, August 26

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park
- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

NO COUNCIL MEETINGS IN AUGUST

NOTE: Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information. The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 228th Avenue NE.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH



*Kathleen Huckabay
Mayor*



*Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources:

Meets: 1st Monday, 10 a.m.

Nancy Whitten, Chair
Michele Petitti
Lee Felling



Community Development:

Meets: 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Mark Cross, Chair
Jack Barry
Nancy Whitten



Public Works:

Meets: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Michele Petitti, Chair
Mark Cross
Jack Barry



Finance:

Meets: 4th Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Don Gerend, Chair
Nancy Whitten
Lee Felling



Public Safety:

Meets: 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Lee Felling, Chair
Kathleen Huckabay
Mark Cross



Legislative:

Meets: as needed

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair
Don Gerend
Michele Petitti



City of Sammamish Offices

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Pete Butkus Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber Public Works Director
Susan Cezar ... Community Development Director
Lyman Howard Financial Services Director
Jeff Watling Parks & Recreation Director
Mike Sauerwein.....Administrative Services Director
Tim Larson Communications Manager
Bruce Disend City Attorney
Melonie Anderson City Clerk
Richard Baranzini Police Chief
John Murphy Fire Chief



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