



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 29

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2004

Community forum

On "heart of the city"

A broad-based citizen vision of what the city's central core should look like in the decades ahead will continue to take shape Dec. 1 at the third and final community forum on the city's "special study area."

The 546-acre area, located in the geographical center of Sammamish, stretches north to south from NE 4th Street to SE Tenth Street, and east to west from 233rd Avenue to 218th Avenue.

Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre civic and park complex, is already planned within those boundaries. The community forums have been designed to let residents have their say on, among other things,

See Community Forum - pg. 3



Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag (left) with Mayor Kathleen Huckabay, Finance Director Lyman Howard, Financial Specialists Marlene Dunham and Jodee Bass, and Financial Analyst Aaron Antin.

State auditor praises city

Congratulating the city for a fifth straight audit without a finding, Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag presented the City Council and financial staff with a letter of recognition on Oct. 19.

In the letter, Sonntag noted the city's "dedication to sound financial operations" and described his office's relationship with Sammamish as a "model for relationships with other entities."

"This is quite a milestone for a new city," City Manager Ben Yazici

said. "Our Finance Director, Lyman Howard, and his staff have done a terrific job.

"A lot of credit also has to go to the council," he said. "From day one, they have always made sound budgeting a top priority."

An audit finding is a financial shortcoming in reporting or controls. Yazici said five years without a finding is exceptional.

"We're a young city, but this shows we're being very careful with the community's tax dollars."

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Mayor
Kathleen Huckabay

As I write this, I am taking pleasure in the beautiful fall colors outside my window and the leaves swirling in the wind and realize, yet again, that it's the beauty of the northwest that keeps us here.

Our biggest challenge is retaining the essence of that beauty while accommodating so many others that want to be part of our community. It's an issue the council and the Planning Commission will grapple with as we consider ways to meter and control our future growth. But more on that another day.

What I want to tell you about now are the two very productive meetings our council and staff had with the Issaquah and Lake Washington School boards and staff.

Among other things, we dis-

cussed traffic, future partnerships, and the inclusion of school videos on Sammamish 21 TV. Stay tuned. As time goes on, we hope to feature the accomplishments and activities of our school children as well as school board meetings on the city's television channel.

The conversation on future partnerships centered on upgrading facilities to create practice fields for our burgeoning soccer and baseball stars. Both districts are excited about partnering with the city to provide more opportunities for our young athletes. So now it's time for our park staff and the school districts to do the hard work – looking at available facilities, identifying the best locations, and analyzing costs.

The conversations took a more serious tone as we discussed traffic and the challenge of keeping our students safe as they walk or ride bikes to school. We all know that traffic on 228th Avenue is near gridlock when students hit the road in the morning,

at lunch, and when school gets out. The districts, which share these traffic concerns, will be taking the issue to the students themselves, hoping to elicit ideas and solutions that could REDUCE the number of cars on our streets.

Lastly, we talked about expanding the program that adds safe sidewalks near schools. The city has been paying for two sidewalk projects each year, but we'd like to do more. To that end, both districts agreed to make a renewed effort to obtain federal grants for sidewalks.

Given the importance we all place on the health and education of our children, these were important meetings. I'm happy to report they went well. As we all know, our community is best served when all parties commit to common goals with a great spirit of cooperation.

Ebright Creek Park comes into focus

After looking at two concepts last month, the City Council will vote on a preferred site plan and approve a design contract for Ebright Creek Park on Dec. 14. If everything goes according to plan, the city will break ground on the new neighborhood park late next year.

As they mulled the features included in the final two concepts, the council decided to eliminate an off-leash dog park and chose not to place the historic Reard/Freed house on the property.

Although a final design has not been approved, the council did give an informal nod to a sports court, play field, picnic shelter and play area for children. The preferred concept can be viewed on the city website: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.



The Ebright Creek Park property as it looks today. Construction of the neighborhood park is expected to begin in late 2005.

Community Forum - cont. from pg. 1

what kind of retail, commercial, residential and transportation development should be allowed.

“The community is creating a focal point, a gathering place for all Sammamish residents,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “These community forums have been an exciting way for residents to help shape the heart of the city.”

The forums were approved by a Special Study Area Task Force, an 18-member resident group in charge of the city-wide visioning process.

*Community Forum
7 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 1
Skyline High School
1122 228th Ave. SE*

*For more information:
www.ci.sammamish.wa.us*

“The council made it clear from the beginning that they wanted this vision to come

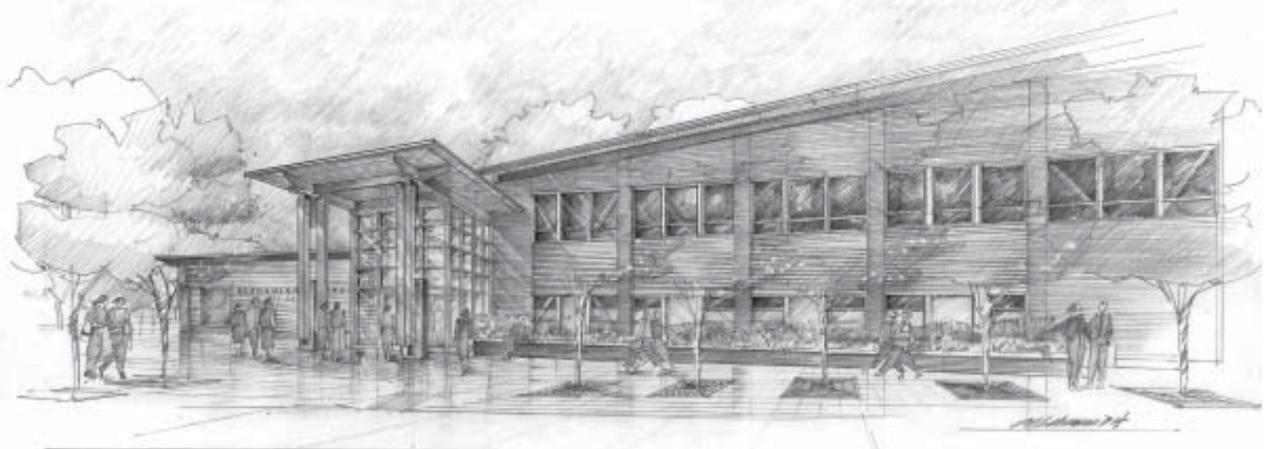
from the community,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The residents on the task force have done an excellent job of reaching out to the broader community by holding these forums.”

The task force, which began meeting in early September, will hold three more meetings after the Dec. 1 Community Forum. After digesting community input on the special study area, the task force will deliver a recommended vision to the City Council in January 2005.



The special study area, also known as a subarea, lies within the highlighted square seen above.

Sammamish Commons open house



Residents saw the latest design of the proposed City Hall at an open house on Nov. 4. The open house, which also reviewed the development history of Sammamish Commons, was held at the current City Hall, 486 228th Ave. NE.

November 16 budget hearing

Public invited for first reading of proposed biennial budget

The 2005/2006 biennial budget ordinance, scheduled for adoption on Dec. 7, will get a first reading at the regular City Council meeting on Nov. 16. The city's property tax levy ordinance will also receive its first hearing at that meeting.

The proposed budget took shape after public input was gathered at a town hall meeting and several City Council study sessions. It calls for operating expenditures of \$25 million in 2005 and \$26 million in 2006. The fig-

ure for 2004 was \$22 million. Most of the increase over the next two years can be attributed to added costs in police and fire contracts.

The proposed budget pays for three new positions in 2005 -- an administrative assistant, a wetland biologist and an additional police sergeant. In 2006, two more hires are anticipated, one in parks and the other in street maintenance.

The city staff has grown very slowly since incorporation in 1999.

Even with the new positions, Sammamish will have only 1.7 employees per thousand in population. That compares to 6 employees per thousand in most area cities.



Sammamish police bust identity theft ring

Working closely with other law enforcement agencies, Sammamish detectives broke up an identity theft gang last month.

Chief Dick Baranzini said the gang has been operating in and around Sammamish since 1999. In addition to arresting the ringleader, the cooperating agencies identified six other group members, seized computers, and took equipment used to make false IDs and checks.

Sammamish detectives started the investigation after two identity theft victims provided them with information. The King County Sheriff's computer forensic unit and the King County Prosecutor's fraud division also took part in the investigation, as did the Medina police, who were conducting their own parallel investigation.

Identity thieves use stolen financial information to create, among other things, false IDs and phony checks, which are then

used to purchase TV's, computers, stereos and pay for daily living expenses.

To protect against ID theft, Baranzini says checks should not be put in unlocked mailboxes. He also suggests picking up new boxes of checks at the bank instead of receiving them in the mail. Residents should also ask businesses to properly dispose of their old checks. The suspects in this case found a lot of information in dumpsters outside local businesses.



Conductor R. Joseph Scott leads the Sammamish Symphony on Aug. 26.

More concerts next year

The city's summer concert series will continue next year after another five successful dates in 2004.

"These concerts at Pine Lake Park have received terrific support," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're especially grateful to our sponsors, who help fund these community events."

In addition to city funds, the concerts in 2004 also received financial support from two outside sponsors. Green With Envy, a tree, shrub and lawn care company, contributed \$5,000 to the summer fun. A King County arts agency, 4Culture, contributed \$3,000.

"We wouldn't be able to have these concerts without help from these wonderful outside sources," Yazici said. "As a community, we're in their debt."

City Clerk likes to help

As both a resident of Sammamish, and its City Clerk, Melonie Anderson has double vision. She can see the city from the inside -- and the outside.

"I get to see the whole process, from the development of an idea inside City Hall, to the reaction it gets out in the neighborhoods," Anderson said. "That's one of my favorite parts of being City Clerk."

Anderson became the city's first official City Clerk in June of 2000, taking over for an interim clerk who had filled the role since incorporation in 1999.

Among the clerk's many vital duties: preparing the City Council agendas, processing public records requests, maintaining city contracts and issuing business licenses and passports. In that role, Anderson is intimately familiar with both how the city works and how the city is perceived.

"I think the biggest misperception I run into with a few residents is the idea that city staff members make the decisions," Anderson said. "A fair number of people don't realize the City Council sets the course, and we just try to implement their vision."

A graduate of Rainier Beach High School and Washington State University, Anderson says she enjoys helping people who come in to City Hall.

"Our orders from the top are to provide good customer service," Anderson said, "and we try to do just that."



City Clerk Melonie Anderson (center) chats with a resident at the City Hall reception desk. Anderson is flanked by city staffers Jennifer Lopez (left) and Devany Lunde (right).

Although Sammamish has a small staff, Anderson thinks most residents appreciate having a City Hall nearby.

"Before incorporation, people used to have get on the phone with the King County Courthouse," Anderson said. "I get the feeling people really appreciate being able to come here and talk to a real person now."

Anderson spends a fair amount of her time helping residents with public information requests, something she takes pride in.

"I like the fact that we are a very open city," she said. "We spend a lot of time helping residents who want to look at public records and city files.

"This is a very accessible level of government. The information is

there, and so is the chance to affect city decisions

"Helping people do that gives you a good feeling. It feels like you're really making a contribution to the community."

Bio Box:

Name: Melonie Anderson

Born: Seattle

High School: Rainier Beach

College: Washington State

Work: Registrar at The Bush School; Deputy City Clerk, Newcastle; City Clerk, Sammamish

Personal: Married

Husband: Perry

Daughters: Amy, 23, and Kylie, 20

Dog: Ozzie

Horse: Hawk

City Council and Issaquah School District meet

At a joint meeting Oct. 21, the City Council and the Issaquah School District discussed numerous topics of mutual interest. The potential for shared use of athletic fields was a primary focus at the meeting, held at the

Issaquah School District headquarters. Among the other topics: school traffic along 228th Avenue, joint video projects for Sammamish 21 Television, and the city's student population growth projections.

"It was a very good meeting," City manager Ben Yazici said. "Superintendent Janet Barry and the school board listened to us, and we listened to them. We have a very good relationship with the district."



City Manager Ben Yazici discusses the potential of shared athletic fields



Issaquah School Board President Jan Woldseth (left) and Sammamish Mayor Kathleen Huckabay listen

Nightmare at Beaver Lake



An estimated 4,500 wide-eyed visitors attended a hugely successful community frightfest at Beaver Lake Lodge over Halloween weekend. The event was sponsored and supported by the Rotary Club, Sammamish Youth Board and countless community volunteers.



Art competition

Artists, both young and old, are invited to submit their work to the Sammi Awards Art Competition.

Winning entries, chosen by the Sammamish Arts Commission, will be announced at the Sammi Award ceremonies in March 2005. The Sammi Awards are designed to promote volunteerism, lift community spirit and honor outstanding individuals in Sammamish.

The subject of the art must incorporate an image and/or the spirit of Sammamish. The artists should also know that the winning entries may be used to promote the Sammi Awards.

For information on deadlines, categories, and submission procedures, please visit the Sammi Awards website: www.sammiawards.org. Artists may also contact David McGibney at 425-557-6459 or dmcgibney@aol.com.

Homecoming parade

Skyline High School's second annual homecoming parade flowed down 228th Avenue without a problem Oct. 29. More accurately, it flowed "up" the city's main arterial as it proceeded north from Discovery Elementary to the higher elevations of the high school campus.

Thanks to the traffic control work of police and city staffers, northbound traffic was diverted into one of the southbound lanes to maintain two-way traffic during the 5 p.m. parade.

To top off the homecoming festivities, the Skyline Spartans football team beat Inglemoor High by a score of 35-0.



Skyline High School's marching band moves north on 228th Avenue during the school's second annual homecoming parade on Oct. 24.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 1

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10 am

Sammamish City Hall

- Finance Committee, 11:30 am

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, November 2

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, November 4

- Sammamish Commons Open House, 1 - 7 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, November 9

- City Council and Special Study Area Task Force Joint Meeting, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 10

- Community Development Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, November 11

- Veterans' Holiday

City Hall Closed

Monday, November 15

- Arts Commission, 7 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

Tuesday, November 16

- Public Works Committee, 5 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 17

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, November 18

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6 pm

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, November 22

- Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, November 23

- Finance Committee, 11:30 am

Sammamish City Hall

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 24

- Public Safety Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, Nov 25 - Friday, Nov 26

- Thanksgiving Holiday

City Hall Closed

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 1

- Special Study Area Community Forum, 7 pm

Skyline High School

Thursday, December 2

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, December 6

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10 am

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, December 7

- City Council, Parks, and Planning Commissions Joint Meeting, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, December 8

- Community Development Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, December 14

- City Council Special Meeting, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, December 15

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, December 16

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6 pm

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Friday, December 24

- Christmas Holiday

City Hall Closed

Friday, December 31

- New Year Holiday

City Hall Closed

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.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Kathleen Huckabay
Mayor*



*Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

City needs homeowner contacts

In an effort to expand its Neighborhood Connections program, the city would like to obtain contact information from homeowners' associations at the following developments and neighborhoods. Please send your information to Laura Shaughnessy at lshaughnessy@ci.sammamish.wa.us. Laura can also be reached at 425-836-7916.

Eden Creek Estates	Lancaster Ridge	Ridge at Pine Lake	Sunrise Park
Eden Glen	Mason's Lakeside	Rosaia Estates	Sunrise Summit
Evergreen Garden	Meadow	Sahalee Woods	Sweden Glen
Fir Tree Meadows	Moonshadow Estates	Sahara	Tamarack
First Branch	Mountain Sun EsPark	Sallal Ridge	Tanska's Pine Lake
Firstmark	Palomino	Samamish 95	Three Willows
Fox Run	Park Glen	Samamish Court	Tiburon Estates
Greentree Park	Park at Pine Lake	Samamish Crest	Timberline Park Assoc. of
Hahnee	Pine Acres	Samamish Firs	Lot Owners
Happy Valley	Pine Grove	Samamish Springs	TJ Square
Heights at Beaver Crest	Pine Lake Glen	Samamish Sunset	Tourraine
Heritage Heights	Pine Lake Heights	Samamish View Park	Trossachs
Highland Creek Estates	Pine Lake Highlands	Samamish Highlands	Vansell
Hunters Glen	Pine Lake Village	Sara's Crossing	Vintage I
Indian Acres	Pine Lake Park Woods	Shannonwood	Vistas at Beaver Crest
Inglemoor	Pincrest	Simone Lane	Washington Park East
Inglewood	Plateau Estates	South Hampton Estates	Washington Park Estates
Inglewood Acres	Ponderosa Trails	Stanton Wood	Waverly Hills
Inglewood Glen	Propst Estates	Sterling Woods	Waverly Shores
Inglewood Ridge	Quail Crest	Suffield	Webers Ridge
Inglewood Station	Quail Ridge	Summer Ridge Park	Woodcreek Acres
Ketcha Village	Rainbow Lake Ranch	Sunny Hills Estates	

City of Sammamish Offices

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Michele Petitti, Councilmember

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Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber	Public Works Director
Susan Cezar	Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard ...	Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling	Parks & Rec. Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Svcs 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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