

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 31

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005

Volunteers

City taps local talent

From the Planning Commission's lofty perch on the dais to the muddy banks of local catch basins, volunteers are making big contributions to the health and welfare of the community.

Whether they're recommending new ordinances to the City Council, or just gathering water samples, Sammamish residents are building a tradition of volunteerism that should serve the city well for decades to come.

"We have many talented residents," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're grateful to those who've already volunteered, and we look forward to building more volunteer participation as time goes on."

A very high standard of commitment was set by the Planning Advi-

See **VOLUNTEERS** - pg. 2

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Mayor's Message	2
Reard/Freed House	3
Ebright Creek Park	3
State Route 202	4
Neighborhood Connections	4
Issaquah Roundabout	5
New Ordinances	6
Sammamish Teens	6
Employee of the Year	7
City Hall Calendar	7
Council Committees	8



Mayor Don Gerend and Deputy Mayor Michele Petitti.

Gerend selected as new mayor

In a unanimous vote, veteran councilmember Don Gerend was chosen to serve as the city's new mayor in 2005. He will take the place of the outgoing mayor, Kathleen Huckabay. Gerend served as Deputy Mayor last year.

The City Council also voted unanimously to make Michele Petitti the new Deputy Mayor.

"Don and Michele are going to be a great team," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "They'll give the council excellent leadership."

Gerend, one of the city's origi-

nal councilmembers, was first elected in 1999. A former rocket scientist with Boeing, Gerend has also worked for many years in real estate. He has a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Washington.

Petitti was first elected to the council in 2001. A small business owner, she has an MBA from Suffolk University in Boston.

In the city manager/council form of government used by Sammamish, councilmembers select one of their own to serve as mayor, usually for a one-year term.



Mayor Don Gerend

It is January of 2005 and the City of Sammamish has a new mayor. It might appear to you that we have a new mayor every year. Well, you are almost correct. I am the fifth mayor in the City's six-year history. The roll call of past mayors: Phil Dyer, Jack Barry, Troy Romero (2 years), Ken Kilroy and Kathleen Huckabay. During these six years, Ava Fisinger has been the only mayor of Issaquah, and Rosemarie Ives has been Redmond's mayor.

One difference between Sammamish and our neighboring cities of Issaquah and Redmond is the form of government. Issaquah and Redmond have a Council/Mayor government with a seven member legislative branch (the city council) and an independently elected mayor as chief executive in charge of the city

administration. Sammamish has a Council/City Manager government, also with a seven member council, but the council hires a professional city manager to carry out council policy directives and oversee general administration of the city operations. Sammamish, like all recently incorporated cities in Washington, has the council select a "mayor" from amongst the seven members of the council.

The mayor of Sammamish remains one of the seven councilmembers, but along with the additional title come added duties such as working on the meeting agendas and presiding over council meetings, providing ceremonial functions at various community events, representing Sammamish at regional meetings and generally being a spokesperson for the City. Oh, and, of course, the mayor has the pleasure of writing the Mayor's Message for the Sammamish newsletter.

The Sammamish council has decided to reorganize yearly, selecting a mayor, deputy mayor and the various council committee assignments. For a newly incorporated city this annual reor-

ganization has been very helpful in providing a rapid broadening of experience for the councilmembers. This year's council can be considered a "veteran" council, no rookies. We have three founding members (Jack Barry, Kathleen Huckabay and I), one member in her fourth year on the council (Michele Petitti), and three members in their second year (Nancy Whitten, Mark Cross and Lee Felling).

Looking ahead in 2005, the council expects progress, if not completion, of several major projects: Ebright Creek Neighborhood Park, City Hall and Sammamish Commons public facilities, the Sound Transit Park and Ride Lot at 228th Ave S.E. and Issaquah Pine Lake Road, the extension of Issaquah Pine Lake Road west of 228th Ave S.E., and several major sidewalk/trail projects.

I am honored and look forward to serving as your mayor and working with the rest of the council to continue the great progress towards making Sammamish a more livable community.

VOLUNTEERS - cont. from pg. 1

sory Board (PAB), a group of volunteers who labored for years on the city's first comprehensive plan.

Following their example, the volunteers listed below are just some of those who continue to serve the City of Sammamish:

Planning Commission - This 7-member commission recommends new ordinances to the City Council and fashions yearly amendments to the comprehensive plan.

Parks and Recreation Commission - These volunteers offer advice to the City Council on the delivery of parks and recreation services to Sammamish residents. The commission has 9 members.

Arts Commission - This 7-

member commission advises the City Council on the promotion of public art and facilitates arts-related projects.

Sammamish Youth Board - A very active group, these 36 young people, among other things, clean up streets, manage holiday events, and strive to unite youth, adults and government in a relationship characterized by equality and mutual respect.

Special Study Area Task Force - This is an 18-member group that is studying land use options in the geographical center of the city.

There are numerous other groups and individuals also working hard.

Approximately 24 Sammamish residents serve as volunteer firefighters.

Boy Scouts assist on city

projects, two retirees work at the police reception desk, and a high school student has assisted with city filing.

Another resident sponsored this year's Safety Fair and helped out with the Certified Emergency Response Team.

Five Police Explorers are also active. These youngsters learn about law enforcement and help out with safety programs, basic security, and traffic and crowd control.

"These volunteers really help create a sense of common purpose in our community," Yazici said. "It's an important feature of a healthy city."

Residents interested in volunteering should call Lola Nelson-Mills, the city's volunteer coordinator. She can be reached at 425-836-7902.

Funding for Reard/Freed House

Possible relocation to Sammamish Commons

Although the details have yet to be nailed down, the city set aside \$250,000 for the possible relocation and renovation of the historic Reard/Freed house.

The home, built in the 1890's, is the only surviving farmhouse in Sammamish dating back to the first generation of non-native settlers.

Money was set aside in the 2005/2006 biennial budget with the thought that the home could be moved from 212th Avenue to Sammamish Commons, the 30-acre civic and park complex planned for 228th Avenue.

The home has already made a small move. It was shifted a short distance north of its original location to make way for a new residential development.



The historic Reard/Freed house in 2003 at its original location along 212th Avenue.

Ebright Creek Park moves ahead



Looking west across the Ebright Creek Park property.

Design contract awarded

Aiming to start construction this summer, the City Council approved a design contract for Ebright Creek Park on Dec. 14.

The \$147,725 contract for design and construction documents went to Wiscomb Landscape Architecture of Seattle.

After a comprehensive public input process, the preferred concept for the park includes, among other things, a sports court, play lawn, climbing rock, picnic area and children's play area. If pending code amendments are approved by the City Council, a creek viewing platform and wetland boardwalk may be added.

Widening the northern bottleneck

Work underway on State Route 202

As Sammamish drivers know, regional traffic jams just north of the city limits can make it difficult to get out of town. But now, thanks to a massive state road project, hope is on the horizon.

In the first of three phases, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is now making improvements to State Route 202 between East Lake Sammamish Parkway and State Route 520.

Of particular interest to Sammamish drivers are the improvements planned for the intersection where East Lake Sammamish Parkway joins State Route 202. This is the infamous bottleneck that often backs up traffic on the parkway all the way south to Inglewood Hill Road.

When this phase is complete, the intersection will feature three left-turn lanes from the parkway onto westbound State Route 202. The angle of approach will also be altered to reduce the sharpness of the turn.

Other improvements in this phase include an additional lane in both directions on State Route 202, bicycle lanes, sidewalks and a landscaped median.



Northbound drivers from Sammamish wait at the intersection of East Lake Sammamish Parkway and State Route 202 on a recent morning.

Construction of phase one began in early November and is scheduled to wrap up late this year.

Phase two will extend the improvements along State Route 202 from the parkway to Sahalee Way. That phase is expected to wrap up in the fall of 2007.

In phase three of the improvements, Sammamish drivers will benefit

from a flyover ramp connecting westbound State Route 202 and westbound State Route 520. That phase, which also extends improvements along State Route 520 all the way to West Lake Sammamish Parkway, isn't schedule for completion until 2011.

More information is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR202_SR520_Sahalee.



A recent Neighborhood Connections meeting.

Neighborhood Connections

The first Neighborhood Connections meeting of 2005 will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

The quarterly meetings, held at the Sahalee Fire Station, 1812 228th Ave. N.E., allow representatives from neighborhood associations to receive information from city staff and ask questions.

Topics to be discussed on Jan. 19 include parks, winter road clearance, and police news. For more information on Neighborhood Connections, contact Laura Shaughnessy at 425-836-7916 or lshaughnessy@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Issaquah considering roundabout

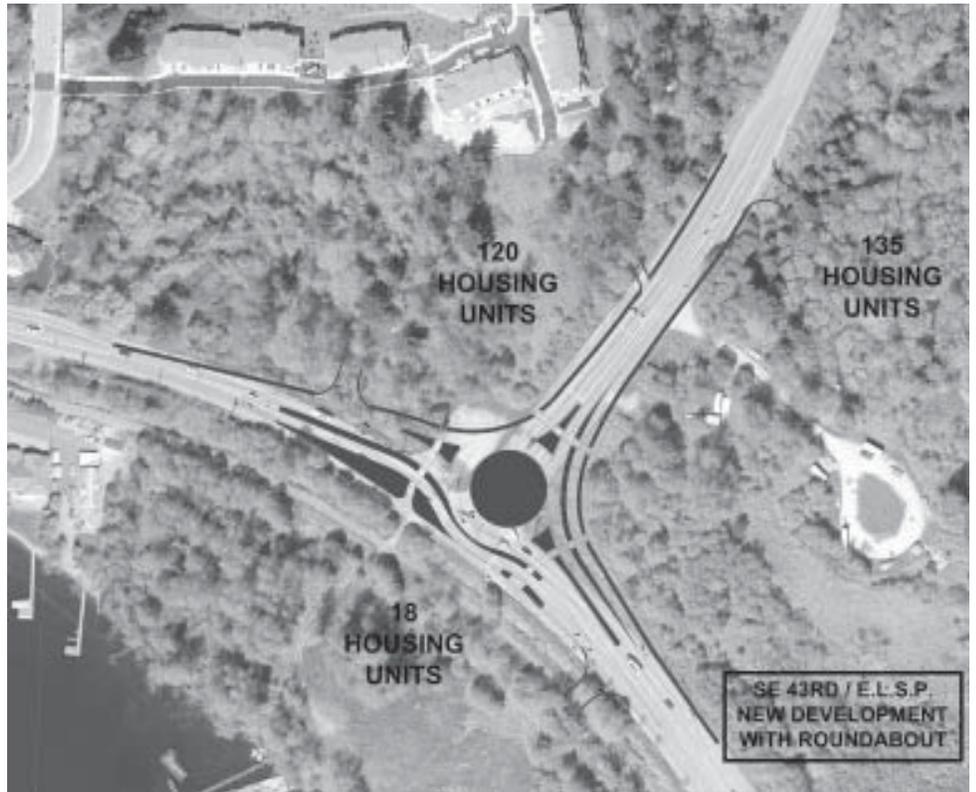
at S.E. 43rd Way and Parkway

Sammamish drivers making their way down Southeast 43rd Way to East Lake Sammamish Parkway may encounter a change of scenery before long.

Issaquah is thinking of installing a large, modern roundabout at the busy intersection to handle current traffic plus additional trips spawned by new residential development at the bottom of Southeast 43rd Way.

An improved traditional intersection with signal lights is also being considered for the site, which is expected to see 270 new residential units developed nearby.

For more information, contact Gary Costa, Issaquah's transportation manager, at 425-837-3442 or garyc@ci.issaquah.wa.us.



An aerial view of the roundabout option for S.E. 43rd Way and East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

City, Eagle Scouts form “unique” partnership

A local Scout leader praised the city for its “unique” partnership with Eagle Scout candidates and its willingness to provide “service project” opportunities.

In a Dec. 17 letter, Troop 509 Scout Committee Member James Hamstreet singled out Glenn Akramoff and Kevin Husemann, both in the city's operations and maintenance department, for their support.

Over the past two years, these and other staffers have supported the Eagle Scout candidates as they designed and implemented more than a dozen maintenance projects in



The new landscaping around fire station signs is the work of local Eagle Scout candidates.

the city. The projects, which helped the youngsters attain Eagle Scout status, included trail improvements at Beaver Lake Park, vegetation removal

at Pine Lake Park, and landscaping around fire station signs. The Scouts also constructed gravel warning tracks at the East Sammamish Park baseball fields.

“They’ve done a really nice job with everything they’ve done,” Operations and Maintenance Manager Glenn Akramoff said. “The Scout program has been a very positive addition to our maintenance program.”

While the Scouts have contributed direction and labor, the city's has pitched in approximately \$10,000 in materials and support for the maintenance projects.

Planning Commission recommends ordinances

Public hearing set for January 18

Four new ordinances proposed by the Planning Commission will be reviewed by the City Council at a public hearing on Jan. 18.

The new ordinances:

Net density - This ordinance will change the way the city calculates allowed density for new subdivisions. It will subtract sensitive areas and streets from the subdivision before calculating the total number of allowed units. The new ordinance will bring the code into alignment with the city's comprehensive plan.

Tree retention - This proposed ordinance would require that new developments retain or replace a certain number of trees. In the past, develop-

ers were entitled to take down all trees on their land. The new ordinance reflects guidance from both the comprehensive plan and substantial public comment.

Utility yards - This ordinance would allow public agencies to build utility yards and maintenance shops inside city limits. Currently, there is no provision in the code for such structures.

Park structure setbacks - Currently, the city's code requires a 50-foot setback from the property line for park structures. This new ordinance would reduce the setback requirement to 20 feet for several specific structures, including tennis courts, sand



boxes and swing sets.

Drafts of the proposed ordinances can be found on the city's website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) under "Municipal Code."

For more information, contact Senior Planner Emily Arteché at 425-836-7920.

Sammamish Teens Help Homeless Youth

The generosity of Sammamish residents and the selfless acts of Sammamish Youth Board members are helping brighten the holiday season for those less fortunate.

On Saturday, January 29, 2005, fifteen members of the Sammamish Youth Board—half of the total membership—will travel to Seattle to serve a spaghetti dinner to over 60 homeless youth.

Board members will eat dinner with the guests, and learn more about how homeless youth survive their day.

The dinner was funded by donations received from local fami-

lies at the 3rd annual "Holiday Celebration", held Dec. 4 in the Sammamish Highlands Shopping Center. The event, which featured

gingerbread house decorating and a giving tree, raised over \$400.

"The Holiday Celebration really brought the community together and involved people of all ages," said Asiya Khaki, 4-year member

of the Youth Board, and senior at Eastlake High School. As part of the festivities, participants also enjoyed free rides on an Eastside Fire and Rescue truck.

Board members responded positively to the idea of directly serving teens in need, and anxiously await their trip to Seattle.



First Row: Asiya Khaki; Second Row: (left to right) Matt Falkin, Juli Crompe, Alexa Cabellon, Ricarda Tietze, Nicki Bastine; Third Row: Brian Kurkky, Maggie Harlow, Kellen Klein and Bridget Beattie.

Darci Donovan

Employee of the year

Praised by colleagues for her energy, cooperative spirit, and “get it done” attitude, Darci Donovan was honored with the city’s first “Employee of the Year” award last month.

Donovan, an administrative assistant in the Community Development Department, has been with the city since 2002.

“She’s taken on responsibility for the Planning Commission, the Special Study Area and many other duties,” Deputy Director of Community Development Susan Cezar said. “Darci has handled them all efficiently and cheerfully. She’s terrific.”



Darci Donovan accepts her “Employee of the Year” award from City Manager Ben Yazici at an all-staff meeting last month.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 4

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, January 5 - Saturday, January 8

- City Council Retreat

Bellingham, WA

Wednesday, January 5

- Special Study Area Task Force Regular Meeting, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, January 6

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, January 11

- City Council Special Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, January 12

- Neighborhood Meeting on SE 30th Street Improvements, 6 pm

Pine Lake Middle School Commons, 3200 228th Ave SE, Sammamish, WA 98075

- Community Development Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Monday, January 17

- Arts Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Pine Lake Covenant Church

Tuesday, January 18

- Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, January 19

- Neighborhood Meeting on 230th Way SE, 6 pm
Pine Lake Middle School Commons

- Neighborhood Connections Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Thursday, January 20

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, January 24

- Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, January 26

- Neighborhood Meeting on NE 14th St, 6 pm
Sahalee Fire Station, 1851 228th Ave NE

Thursday, January 27

- Sammamish Youth Board Regular Meeting, 6 pm

Sammamish Library

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 1

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, February 2

- Neighborhood Meeting on 205th Pl NE, 6 pm
Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary School Library, 3225 205th Pl NE

Tuesday, February 3

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, February 8

- City Council Special Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, February 15

- Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, February 16

- Arts Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Pine Lake Covenant Church

Thursday, February 17

- Sammamish Youth Board Regular Meeting, 6 pm

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, February 21

- Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, February 22

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

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



*Don Gerend
Mayor*



*Michele Petitti
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees

(At press time, new committee assignments were still pending.)

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources:

Meets: 1st Monday, 10 a.m.

Community Development:

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Public Works:

Meets: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Finance:

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

Public Safety:

Meets: 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Legislative:

Meets: as needed

City of Sammamish Offices

486 228th Ave. NE, Sammamish, WA 98074
Phone: 425-898-0660 • Fax: 425-898-0669

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Don Gerend, Mayor

dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Michele Petitti, Deputy Mayor

mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Jack Barry, Councilmember

jbarry@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Mark Cross, Councilmember

mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Lee Felling, Councilmember

lfelling@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember

khuckabay@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ben Yazici City Manager
Pete Butkus Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber Public Works Director
Bob Horne Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard ... Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein Admin Svcs Director
Steve Hartwig City Engineer
Bruce Disend City Attorney
Melonie Anderson City Clerk
Richard Baranzini Police Chief
John Murphy Fire Chief
Tim Larson Communications Manager



486 - 228th Avenue NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
REDMOND, WA
PERMIT NO. 312

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER